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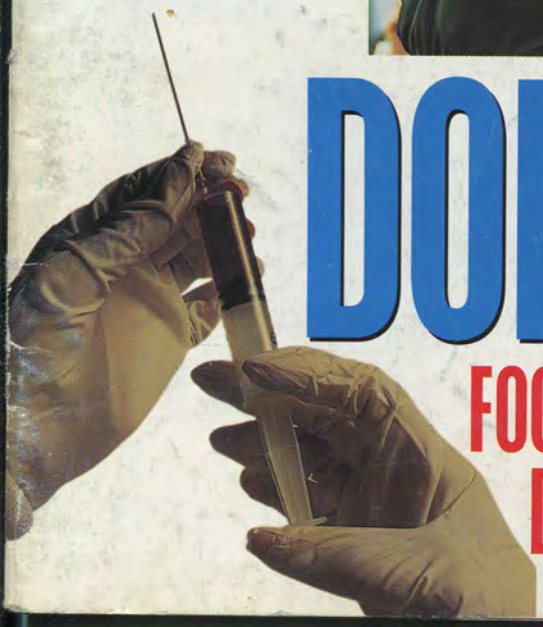

DOPING!

FOOTBALL'S DRUG PROBLEM

Latest international results, line-up and tables

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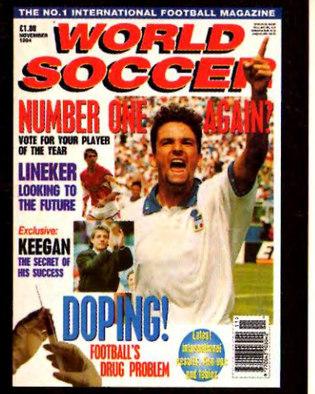
Brazilian boy wonder goes Dutch!
Teenage sensation Ronaldo has been in sparkling form for PSV Eindhoven since his £4million move from Cruzeiro of Belo Horizonte. The 18-year-old striker scored a hat-trick in PSV's 5-4 UEFA Cup defeat by Bayer Leverkusen and already has four league goals to his name. Ronaldo is reported to be on $1milllion a year at PSV, where he follows in the footsteps of Romario, who played there for five seasons before moving to Barcelona.



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Contents

The doping game 4
Is soccer on a high?
Keir Radnedge introduces a special investigation into drugs in football. **Paul Gardner** analyses who's taking what — and why. **Paddy Agnew** looks at drugs on the Italian soccer scene, while **Brian Glanville** recalls the Bologna scandal of 1964. **Mark Irwin** reports on doping in England and **Eric Weil** details the long and troubled history of drugs in South American football

Baresi bows out 16
The Italian captain calls it a day

***WORLD SOCCER* awards 38**
Vote for your Player of the Year, Team of the Year and Manager of the Year

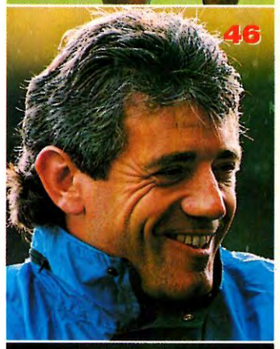
The miracle man 46
The secret of Kevin Keegan's success at Newcastle

Lineker's legacy 60
Gary Lineker looks to the future

Italy 16
Spain 20
France 22
Western Europe 24
Eastern Europe 30
South America 40
CONCACAF 44
UK 48
Asia 58
Japan 60
Africa 64

regulars

Keir Radnedge commentary 4
Trevor Brooking 36
Diary + TV 52
Results 66
Brian Glanville 72
A-Z of World Stadia 74



Commentary

Keir Radnedge

Time for international football, loud and clear, to . . .

Say NO to drugs

KEIR RADNEDGE, Editor of WORLD SOCCER, *introduces a special nine-page investigation into drugs in football — potentially the most explosive issue to threaten the credibility of the international game.*

FOOTBALL is in a mess over drugs.

The Diego Maradona revelations at the World Cup finals in the United States was no one-off incident, as many in the game claimed. It was merely the tip of an iceberg. And the real danger is that no-one quite knows how enormous may be the hidden bulk of that iceberg lurking beneath the surface of the international football ocean.

In the next pages, we are studying the background to potentially the most threatening crisis facing the international game.

Drugs in soccer is not an easy subject. It is complex. It is intimidating. But in the light of successive revelations hinting at the breadth of the drug culture across the international game it can no longer be ignored.

Nor would we be approaching the subject with any sense of responsibility if we skated, in perfunctory fashion, over the surface.

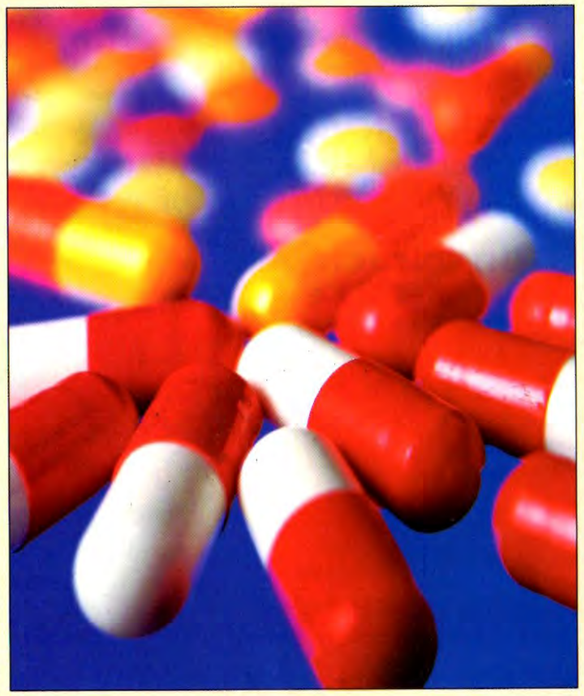
Anyone who wants to play down the issue either has his (or her) head in the sand or has a vested interest in the subversion of sporting competition.

Too many people in positions of power within the game run the risk of committing the blunders which have again made a laughing stock of football administration in France . . . where a player was banned last season after failing a dope test and nobody knew!

It was hushed up by the federation, the club and the player, Stephane Ziani of Bastia. They pretended he was merely injured. Yet the French federation had an absolute duty to notify FIFA of the incident. It did not . . . until the news broke in the pages of newspaper *L'Equipe*.

The FFF had treated the incident as it treated the slush fund, under-the-counter cash scandals of the 1970s and 1980s — as a private matter for individuals (and their tax inspector or doctor, for that matter) but nothing really to do with football.

The result of that misguided, short-sighted policy — if it can be called that — was that such literally scandalous behaviour burgeoned and blossomed until French football suffered the ultimate disgrace of their first European club champions being barred from the title defence because they had been caught in the act of fixing domestic league matches. As *France Football* once stated: "Corruption has always existed in football and, sadly, always will to some extent. What the Marseille of Bernard Tapie did was to institutionalise it. Then other people feared they could only compete by copying their methods."



In the same way, drugs abuse — if ignored, swept under the carpets of the corridors of power — will continue to escalate. Who knows the real depth of the problem within the French football underworld?

'Anyone who wants to play down the issue has his (or her) head in the sand . . . drugs abuse, if ignored and swept under the carpets of the corridors of power, will continue to escalate'

After all, the latest case is not the first by a long way. It's now five years since Toulon's Philippe Anziani failed a test after a league match against Metz, having taken a couple of analgesic tablets.

A few weeks before the latest French incident, Valentin Belkevich of Minsk Dynamo was banned for 12 months by UEFA after failing a dope test revealing steroids following the preliminary round victory over Hibernians of Malta. Tough punishment? Hardly. Minsk were allowed to stay in the UEFA Cup, despite Hibs' protest. Thus did UEFA open itself, quite legitimately, to accusations of being too soft on drugs. How effectively will the clubs fight against drugs when they have documented proof that UEFA will not touch them?

FIFA's decision not to sign the IOC protocol against drugs in sport was a further signal of international football's confusion over the issue.

That confusion stemmed initially from the certainty that not even the East German sports laboratories could come up with a concoction which could make a team play better or help an individual pass the ball more effectively or shoot more accurately.

After all, in all the years the East Germans turned out record-breaking swimmers and athletes they turned out football teams which reached the World Cup finals on just one occasion and won just one European club trophy, Magdeburg in the Cup-winners Cup in 1974. (Come to think of it, they did not turn out that many outstanding individual footballers, either, but that may have had as much to do with the system as with the lack of appropriate medication).

Not that the East Germans were out on there own. Brazilian officials never made any secret of the fact that the big clubs would put their waif-like teenage talent on steroids and steaks to make up for childhood years of dietary insufficiencies. Zico was one such product in an era when no-one on the Flamengo administrative or medical staff doubted such methods.

Sports such as athletics and swimming have long been shot through with an illegal drugs culture. These are disciplines which stand out as perfect targets for the unscrupulous because they are all about individual athletic endeavour as measured by tapes and clocks. Drugs can build the muscles which allow a man or woman to perform — as that ironically stigmatised Olympic motto proclaims — Citius Altius Fortius . . . faster, higher, stonger.

As these sports generated their own increasing credibility gaps, so football sat back and preened itself in self-righteousness.

Wrongly and dangerously.

Of course, performance enhancement is just one aspect of the drugs issue. A second side is the introduction into the equation of social drugs (cocaine, most obviously), introduced following the rise in fashionable status of today's rich young professional footballer. Note that Maradona's first busts were for cocaine, as with Claudio Caniggia. Not "sporting" stimulants.

'Our concern here is not one of social morality or criminality . . . undermine the egalitarian principle of sporting competition and you undermine football as a whole'

Another side of the problem is that the majority of countries do not have dope-test programmes of any sort. FIFA and UEFA have long since introduced random selection dope-testing at matches in high-level international competitions and most western Europe federations have domestic test procedures. Italy, for example, introduced a programme in 1961-62 in response to long-running but generally unsubstantiated speculation that stimulants had been used in Calcio since the early 1950s.

Finance is a major hitch. Employing the specialists to oversee testing and the laboratories to check the results does not come cheap.

Look at the Portuguese situation. Dope-testing procedures are available for use by all clubs. But the costs are born by the home team. Thus Benfica, Sporting and FC Porto all happily accept it is in their interests for dope tests to be carried out regularly on randomly-selected players from both teams at their home matches. But the small clubs cannot afford the bills . . . or do not want to pay.

It is no secret within the Portuguese game that some players take stimulants to "assist" their performances, in particular at home to the Big Three. But the voluntary nature of the testing programme means it has only limited value.

Across the Atlantic, drugs bring other problems. It has long been held as common knowledge that the drugs barons of Colombia used football to launder their money. In the 1980s Colombian football, while offering little at World Cup level, was an El Dorado for players from the rest of South America because their clubs paid higher wages than even the cossetted giants of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. In the last few weeks, in the aftermath of the tragic murder of Andres Escobar, the Colombian government has announced tight controls on the financing of football in general, the top clubs in particular and the drug industry links into the huge pools syndicates which have claimed not only players but referees, officials and one government Minister among their victims over the past decade.

Colombia may appear over the sea and far away. But drugs of one sort or another are available everywhere. This is a subject of concern close to home. Not one to be hidden away. There are no brownie points to be gained from hush-hush policies. That feeds only suspicion and speculation.

Not merely in France. England too.

Our reporters examining the issue from a domestic perspective were given great assistance by the Sports Council, which administers dope-testing for the Home Associations. But the Football Association found straight answers impossible.

Why? We're not talking state secrets. We're talking a matter of major, high-profile sporting concern. Everyone in sport has the right, indeed the responsibility, to be properly informed about the subject. How else can a coach or competitor judge whether his cold cure is "legal" in a sporting context? No wonder sportsmen fall innocent victims to over-the-counter medicines when so many sports administrators are so guarded about the information in their files.

Or is it that they don't understand?

Our concern here is not one of social morality or criminality. That is for other commentators in other newspapers and magazines and in other places.

Our concern, however, is for the credibility of football. For the "fair play" concept around which FIFA and UEFA and the other confederation generate so much publicity. "Fair play" means the right to fair competition. Strip away all the paraphernalia of television, razzmatazz, sponsors and promoters and it is the sheer, raw, basic element of physical competition between two teams of 11 men which appeals so mightily to the emotions of so many billions around the world.

Undermine the egalitarian principle of sporting competition and you undermine football as a whole.

Consider athletics, in a permanent state of confusion over dope-test procedures and punishments and which has thus laid itself open to raised-eyebrows treatment whenever a record is broken.

Football must not allow itself to slide down that road.

TIPS OF THE ICEBERG

DOPE TESTING was introduced to the World Cup at the 1974 finals in West Germany. So far four players have been reported as having failed dope tests:

No 1 . . . in 1974, was Ernst JEAN-JOSEPH of Haiti, who was tested positive after the 3-1 defeat by Italy. Jean-Joseph blamed medicine given to him at home to ward off asthma attacks. He was sent home and suspended for a year.

No 2 . . . in 1978, was Willie JOHNSTON of Scotland, who was sent home in disgrace from the finals in Argentina after testing positive for fencamfamine (in a flu cure to help him sleep better) after the 3-1 defeat by Peru.

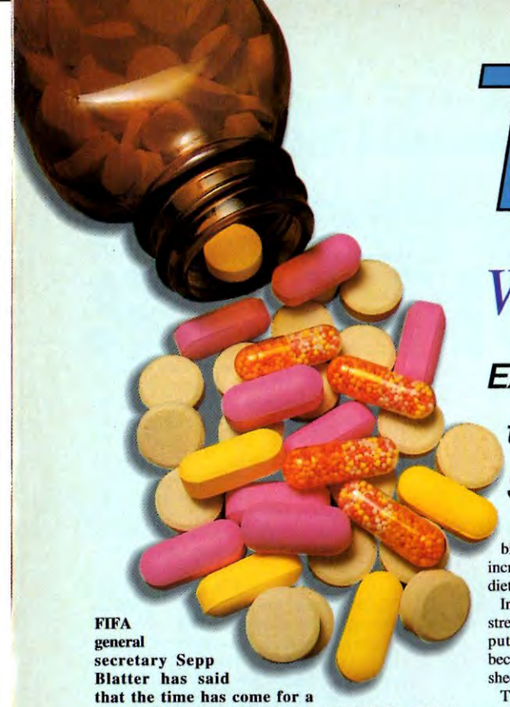
No 3 . . . in 1986, was Ramon CALDERE of Spain, who was not punished despite testing positive. FIFA was satisfied ephedrine had been contained in a bronchitis cure given innocently to Caldere by the team doctor. The Spanish federation was fined.

No 4 . . . in 1994 was Diego Armando MARADONA, who was barred from playing in the remainder of the finals after failing a dope test (for five ephedrine-related substances) following the 2-1 victory over Nigeria in the first round.

The doping game

Who's taking what, and why

Expert analysis by PAUL GARDNER, Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and WORLD SOCCER's correspondent in the United States.



FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter has said that the time has come for a review of FIFA's position on drugs. FIFA's attitude up until now has been that there is no sport-wide drug problem in football. A reasonable and probably correct position. But such is the fear of doping that sports are now anxious to prove that they are clean.

Asked about this, FIFA spokesman Guido Togoni, said: "Our position has always been that we are no better or worse than other sports — though I do believe that in football there is no basic need for doping.

"We now have the feeling that the national federations need some guidelines on the question of doping. Our aim should be a clean sport both on and off the field, otherwise we're not very credible. You cannot be a sportsman on the field and a drug consumer off the field."

Concern about the use of drugs in sport began earnestly after World War Two with persistent rumours that cyclists were trying to increase their strength and stamina with dangerously high doses of stimulants. The rumours became ugly reality in 1960 when a Danish cyclist died during the Olympic Games. The official cause of death was given as sunstroke, but many were convinced that the true culprit was a drug called Ronicol, a mild vasodilator administered by the Danish trainer with the idea of increasing blood supply to the leg muscles.

In 1961, the Italian Football Federation carried out urine tests on 36 Serie A players, and found that eight of them had taken the stimulant amphetamine — a result that prompted the Federation to set up football's first regular testing scheme.

The 1960s were relatively innocent days on the doping front. But the increasing importance of professional sports, and the huge amounts of money available to winners were to change all that.

There were two other important factors. The growth of the counter-culture in the 1960s led to a new mentality which encouraged experimenting with drugs.

At the same time, the pharmaceutical industry was spending billions on medical research, and producing a constant stream of new highly-potent synthetic drugs. These drugs were designed for medical use, but some were soon hijacked by the pleasure seekers. Or by those seeking to enhance performance in sport.

Anabolic steroids, for instance. This is a group of substances similar to the natural male hormone, testosterone. They have two actions: anabolic (they help the build-up of protein within the body, and hence of muscle) and androgenic (they increase the development of male characteristics, such as hair growth).

Back in the 1950s, anabolic steroids were used by body builders. Certainly they did seem to increase bulk, but there has always been an argument as to whether bigger muscles meant greater strength. If strength was increased, that was felt to be due to the accompanying diet and exercise programmes.

In the 1960s, steroid use spread to those sports where strength and bulk were the key — weight lifting, shot putt, discus — and in the United States the drug became increasingly used in American football, where sheer size is often more important than agility.

The best steroid for doping purposes differed from the medical idea, in that a high androgenic effect was desirable. This produced increased aggression and competitiveness, which apparently enabled the athletes to train harder.

Apparently. One of the pervasive things about doping is that there is no real, foolproof, way of proving that a performance-enhancing drug is doing what it's supposed to do. Even the steroids have a "mood", or psychoactive, effect, which is the main effect of stimulant drugs.

Stimulants include such substances as cocaine and ephedrine (cocaine use led to Maradona's first suspension in 1991, while ephedrine was the culprit in 1994), and the amphetamines (the most commonly used being methylamphetamine, or speed). Their effects include increasing alertness, reducing fatigue and, possibly, increasing competitiveness.

'Whether stimulants have an enhancing effect is no longer the issue. If drugs are taken in the expectation that they will help, this is construed as cheating. And that is equivalent to doping'

These psychoactive properties cannot be readily measured. Much of the effect is subjective, and depends on the mood or the expectations of the person taking the drug. A person given a totally inert substance, but who is told that it is a powerful stimulant, is quite likely to experience stimulation. This so-called placebo effect, a type of auto-suggestion, makes any assessment of the value of stimulants extremely difficult.

Another problem with stimulants is that they often produce loss of judgment, which is certainly of no help in enhancing sports performances.

Whether or not steroids or stimulants can be proved to have an enhancing effect on athletic performance is no longer the issue. If the drugs are taken with the expectation that they will help, this is construed as cheating by the International Olympic Committee. And that is equivalent to doping.

Trying to define doping is not as easy as it sounds. FIFA's regulations have this: "The administration to, or the use by, a player of any agent foreign to the organism, by whatsoever means introduced, or of any measure taken with the object of enhancing artificially and in an unfair manner with the performance before or during the competition, is deemed to be doping."

The loopholes in such a definition are obvious. What about giving players a sniff of oxygen inhaler? Or a drink from a Gatorade bottle? Or glucose supplements? Are these doping?

One can go further: the definition talks of "any measure". Could that include a screaming, yelling pep-talk from the coach, designed to set the players' adrenaline flowing?

The answer is "no" to all those queries, because doping in sports is handled not by a definition, but by a list of banned substances and procedures. If it's on the IOC's banned list, it's doping. If it's not on the list, it may be all right.

The problem with the list is that it has to be kept up to date, and has to be all-inclusive. Which is why the list repeatedly includes the words "and related substances". A catch-all phrase designed to prevent new or obscure drugs slipping through the controls.

The IOC banned-substance list — which is used, slightly modified, by FIFA — has five categories: the stimulants and the steroids, plus narcotics, diuretics, and peptide hormones.

FIFA, however, does not comply with the IOC's recommendations on the penalties to be imposed for drug use. It prefers its own judgment, so that it can take into consideration what it knows about the individuals involved and the circumstances.

The narcotics on the IOC list are morphine and its derivatives, which are used to reduce pain. Abuse occurs when they are used to mask pain to allow an injured player to play.

Diuretics are drugs that cause increased urination. This can result in dramatic weight loss, and diuretics are therefore used in those sports — boxing is one — where weight limits are enforced. As much as 10 kilos of body weight can be lost by using diuretics before a weight-in, to be quickly replaced by an infusion of saline solution immediately afterwards.

Diuretics also are used as a cheating adjunct: by increasing the amount of urine, they dilute it to the point where detection of banned substances becomes difficult.

Peptide hormones are substances that cause the body to increase production of natural androgenic steroids.

The IOC list over 100 banned compounds, and bar the use of techniques such as blood-doping, the intravenous infusion of red blood cells to increase the blood's ability to take up oxygen, thereby increasing stamina.

Hidden among the list of banned stimulants is the commonest of the lot. Caffeine is the most widely used psycho-active substance, so widely used that the IOC cannot totally ban it. Instead they impose an upper limit for its presence in the urine: a cup of tea or coffee before a game will result in a positive test.

This acknowledgement of popular drinking habits ran into trouble last year during the qualifying games for World Cup '94. Although FIFA does not insist on tests during such games, they are carried out in South America. Brazilian goalkeeper Zetti and Bolivian defender Rimba tested positive for cocaine after one game.

Both protested their innocence, and it was soon established that the problem was that both had drunk Trimate, a local herb tea, before the game. Trimate is widely marketed in Bolivia; it contains coca leaves (which contain cocaine), but at a legally low level, approved by the Bolivian government.

FIFA withdrew its suspension of the players, but fined the two national federations $18,000 each for "carelessness". While a tea or a coffee might be acceptable, Trimate was not.

Caffeine, then, is half-banned. Alcohol is not banned at all, presumably on the assumption that any large dosage is immediately detectable and obviously detrimental.

Marijuana is specifically identified by the IOC as a substance that is not banned. But the FIFA drug list makes no mention of marijuana. This is odd, as most countries have laws restricting its use. It is a lifestyle drug, but FIFA's stated interest in promoting a clean off-the-field image suggests it should be on the banned list.

'No doubt, footballers will take drugs in the hope that their performance will be improved'

There is not much for the football player looking to chemically boost his game. Steroids add bulk, when football calls for speed and agility. There are no imposed weight limits in the sport, so the diuretics have no place. Beta-blockers are for sportsmen who don't run around. Stimulants may increase concentration, but they also upset judgment.

The small chance of a positive effect on performance must be set against the much greater likelihood of damaging side-effects. Stimulants have led to over-exertion, even death and some carry a high risk of addiction. The steroids have a whole catalogue of adverse effects, including liver disorders, heart disease, and cancer.

Football, unlike many other sports, does not seem to be the type of activity that can be boosted by drug taking. The East Germans had a lot of success using drugs and laboratory science to fashion swimmers and track athletes, but they were singularly unsuccessful at producing good footballers.

There is little reason to doubt the accepted wisdom that, as far as doping is concerned, football is clean. Major countries now carry out regular urine testing. In the past year, the Sports Council in England carried out urine tests on 168 footballers. Only one positive result (for amphetamine) was recorded.

No doubt, there will be footballers who will take drugs in the hope that their performance will be improved. Despite the present purity of the sport, FIFA is right to call for vigilance. The pharmaceutical industry is as inventive as ever, the pressure to find an extra competitive edge probably higher than ever.

You haven't seen it yet, but who knows? It could happen: "VITAFOOT! Say Goodbye to . . . Mistimed Headers . . . Misplaced Passes. . . Off-target Shots. . . Dropped Crosses! Just two VITAFOOT tablets a day will have you playing football LIKE THE STARS!"

That may not be too fantastic. The latest addition to the psycho-active drugs are the so-called "smart drugs." They are supposed to increase learning ability, sharpen concentration, and maybe even confer greater intelligence.

Don't get too excited. Most of the tests so far have been on laboratory animals. It has yet to be proved that those drugs — which help rats find their way out of maze — will offer any solutions to a player trapped in the midfield morass of modern football.

Diego test doubts

THE World Cup drugs test which condemned Diego Maradona was seriously flawed, according to the pharmacologist who actually launched the war on sport's dope cheats.

And Professor Arnold Beckett insists that it is just possible that the disgraced Argentinian captain could be an innocent victim of the witch-hunt currently being waged in football.

Maradona was expelled from USA '94 and subsequently handed a 15-month worldwide ban by FIFA after providing a positive dope test following Argentina's game against Nigeria.

FIFA doctor Michel d'Hooghe said: "We have found five different substances in Maradona's urine sample which cannot be found in any single medicine nor the team doctor's list of medication.

"He must have taken a cocktail of drugs."

The five banned substances were Ephedrine, Pseudo-ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Non-pseudo-ephedrine and Methylephedrine.

But Beckett, a founder member of the IOC's Medical Commission, claims that Maradona took only two drugs which were contained in a diet preparation called "Ripped Fuel" and that the other three were produced by a chemical reaction.

"FIFA made this statement about Maradona taking this so-called 'cocktail' but didn't seem to realise that three were there almost certainly as a result of the metabolism of the other two," says Beckett.

"The present testing system is riddled with inaccuracies because the allowed limits for certain substances differ from sport to sport."

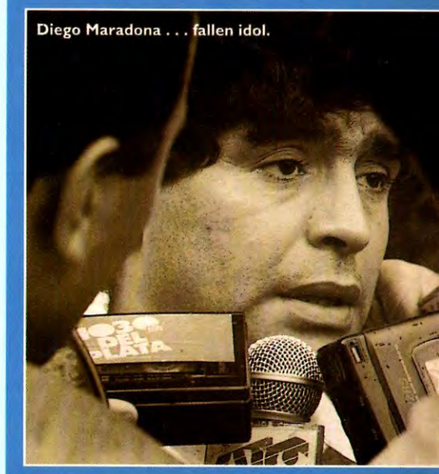
Yet none of this explains Maradona's contradictory reasoning for why he failed the test.

Immediately after the results were announced, he told Argentine team doctor Ernesto Ugalde that he had taken two medicines, Decidex and Naftizol, to combat an allergy.

Now his agent Marcos Franchi claims he mistakenly took "Ripped Fuel" after running out of another, legal, diet substance called "Ripped Fast".

The full truth will probably never be known, but the fact Maradona did not receive a lifetime ban suggests FIFA may have believed his claim that he was not deliberately seeking to cheat.

● Argentina FA officials have denied reports that after Diego Maradona tested positive at this year's World Cup, the entire Argentine squad was tested by the FA and that two other players tested positive.



Diego Maradona . . . fallen idol.

Calcio, coke and carnitina

Drugs scandals have long been a part of the Italian soccer scene, says PADDY AGNEW

HE LEFT like a thief in the night, slipping out of Italy via Rome airport in the early hours of April 2, 1991. For once, Diego Armando Maradona's return to his native Buenos Aires was not accompanied by a blaze of publicity.

Rather he was ignored by fellow passengers who failed to recognise the world's most famous footballer, somewhat "camouflaged" by three-day stubble, sun glasses, leather coat and blue jeans.

Maradona ran from Italy five days before an Italian Football Federation Disciplinary Board gave him a 15-month, subsequently worldwide, ban from soccer for cocaine abuse. Traces of cocaine had been found in a urine sample taken from Maradona during a random dope test following a game between his club, Napoli, and Bari on March 17.

The celebrated Maradona doping "caso" of 1991 might have been the most highly publicised of its kind in Italian soccer but it was neither the first nor the last.

Andrea Carnevale . . . weight watcher's pills.

Routine dope testing was introduced to Italian soccer only in 1961, too late to offer any evidence with regard to practices in the mid to late 1950s, when Italian football first atttracted speculation surrounding stimulant abuse. Indeed, the late Danny Blanchflower, writing in *The Double and Before* in 1961, recalled one incident from Northern Ireland's duels with Italy in the World Cup qualifiers in 1957: "Then Schiaffino . . . flung himself brutally and deliberately into little Wilbur Cush. It seemed so much out of character with the beautiful style of his play. There was a vacant expression in his eyes when the referee cautioned him. 'Do you think he's drugged?' Jimmy McIlroy asked me."

The Italo-Uruguayan Juan Schiaffino was at the centre of one scare story in December 1957, when Milan played Rangers in the Champions Cup. All sorts of speculation followed claims that Schiaffino and team-mate Gastone Bean had approached Scottish officials seeking syringes.

Later Rangers manager Scot Symon said: "Schiaffino cannot speak English but we understood eventually from Bean, who does speak a little English, that Schaffino has been having medical treatment for anaemia. He carries his injection solutions with him and has them twice a week. As far as I know, the substance contains only liver extract."

In April 1962 a number of Internazionale players were named by the Italian league as having taken pep pills before matches. Ultimately three unnamed players were suspended for two matches each for testing positive to stimulant abuse. No action was taken against four other Inter players under suspicion.

A year later seven Napoli players were suspended briefly on drug charges by the Italian football authorities, while the club were in the middle of a Cup-winners' Cup campaign. Napoli were fined £3,000.

But the biggest scand of those years was undoubtedly the Bologna affair, documented (right) by Brian Glanville.

Following the storm generated by the Bologna case, doping rather disappeared from the Italian soccer planet. The next recorded incident did not come until 24 years later, in March 1988, when Verona defender Silvano Fontolan tested positive after a UEFA Cup home tie against Werder Bremen.

Fontolan was found to have taken Micoren, an amphetamine, and accordingly he received a year's suspension, while Verona were fined $30,000 dollars. Bremen went on to win the tie, but for the then 33-year-old Fontolan, the ban brought his first-class career to a (slightly) premature end.

Diego Maradona is led away by police in Buenos Aires after being caught in a cocaine 'sting' in July 1991. He was subsequently put on an anti-addiction probation programme.

Two years later, doping again made Italian soccer headlines when two AS Roma players, striker Andrea Carnevale (now with Udinese) and goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi (now with Juventus), tested positive following a Roma-Bari league game at the Olympic Stadium on September 23, 1990.

During the subsequent inquiry, Roma, then led by the legendary Christian Democrat Senator, the late Dino Viola, behaved disgracefully. The club and the two players between them managed to offer three different explanations as to how traces of "Fentermina" were found in the players' samples.

By and large, the players claimed that they had taken the substance unwittingly via a weight watcher's pill, Lipopill, which they had borrowed from Peruzzi's mother and which they had taken to help shake off the effects of an over-enthusiastic restaurant meal, three nights before the Bari game.

The Federation Disciplinary Board did not believe the excuses, banning both players for a year and fining the club $100,000 dollars. Intrique was added to the case when a disconsolate Carnevale told television viewers on the day after the sentence:

"I would have told the truth right from the start but the club forced me to stay silent."

Roma again found themselves in the eye of a doping storm only three years later, in March 1993, when their Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia tested positive after a 1-1 home draw with Napoli on March 21.

Traces of cocaine had been found in Caniggia's sample and although the player at first denied the allegations, he subsequently admitted to having taken cocaine at a midweek party, in the mistaken belief that coach Vujadin Boskov would drop him for Sunday's game.

At the time, Caniggia was on the way back from injury and was in constant battle with Serbian Sinisa Mihajlovic, German Thomas Hassler and Brazilian Aldair for one of the three foreign player berths. Caniggia's error cost him a Maradona-style 15-month ban from which he returned just on the eve of this summer's World Cup to play a prominent part in Argentina's short-lived USA '94 campaign.

Caniggia, Carnevale and Peruzzi (and indeed Bologna) all recovered from their dope suspensions to resume their careers and continue on down the soccer track. Even Maradona came back from suspension, although his comeback via Sevilla, Newell's Old Boys and Argentina ended in mid-summer disgrace this year.

One player for whom a 15-month sentence for cocaine use appears to have had more drastic consequences was Edoardo Bortolotti, who spent last season with Third Division Palazzolo, but is now thought to be out of professional soccer.

Three years ago, Bortolotti was a promising defender with Second Division Brescia and one of the most useful defenders in the then Under-21 team coached by Cesare Maldini. His suspension, after failing a dope test, seems to have destroyed a potentially brilliant career. For some, the price paid for a doping offence is high.

Caniggia . . . cocaine bust.

DINO ZOFF parades the World Cup in Madrid in 1982 *(right)*. But even Italy's success over West Germany was surrounded by speculation about a mysterious substance said to have been administered to players by team doctor Leonardo Vecchiet.

The substance was carnitina — available under various guises over the counter in Europe's high streets.

Vecchiet assured team boss Enzo Bearzot, officials, players and media that carnitina was nothing more than a substance which "supported the celullar energy in muscle tissue." In other words, he considered it would help players — already weary after a long hard season — to regain normal physical condition sooner rather than later after a match.

Clearly, in a World Cup tournament where time between games is limited, such assistance could be invaluable. It must be stressed that Italy's players were subject to the same dope controls as every other country and — whatever carnitina's properties — no-one tested positive for an illegal substance.

Oddly, carnitina was not heard of again until earlier this year when Vecchiet was arrested in connection with a scandal over carnitina's supposed qualities in reducing the risk of heart attacks.

Vecchiet had been Italy's otherwise uncontroversial and self-effacing national team doctor from 1968 until he retired in 1990. He told journalists on his departure: "Don't remember me only for carnitina . . . "

Scandal in Bologna!

BRIAN GLANVILLE recalls one of the most notorious incidents in the troubled history of Italian soccer

Fulvio Bernardini . . . innocent victim

BOLOGNA, managed by Fulvio Bernardini, took top place in the Italian League in February 1964.

Celebrations and rejoicings. Not only in that beautiful red brick (in the best medieval sense) ancient university city, the progenitor of Oxford, but elsewhere in the peninsula as well, because it signified that Bernardini, once an elegant and deeply admired attacking centre-half, might turn the trick again.

He looked likely to take a Central Italian side to the League title, just as he had done in the 50s with Fiorentina, thus breaking the tight monopoly of the industrial North.

Moreover, his attractive Bologna team had squeezed off Internazionale, at once dourly and flamboyantly managed by Helenio Herrera. Outside their own supporters, nobody liked Inter much. And still fewer liked Herrera.

But Bologna were not up there for long. On March 4, the bomb went off. It was the beginning of what the historian of Italian football, leading journalist Antonio Ghirelli, would describe as "the most scandalous, the most confused, the most laughable case in the entire story of Italian football." Until then, we might say, with soured hindsight.

The Italian League issued a bulletin to the effect that their medical commission had ascertained, on the basis of tests made after the Bologna v Torino match a month earlier, that "amphetamine substances" had been found in the urine of five Bologna players, Romano Fogli, Ezio Pascutti, Mirko Pavinato, Marino Perani and Paride Tumburus.

In consequence, the scheduled match between Bologna and Spal of Ferrara was postponed while proceedings were considered.

Uproar in Bologna. Leading local politicians swore that the club must be innocent. A group of Bologna fans, all lawyers, laid accusations with the Public Prosecutions that the so-called "flagons" of urine, tested in a Florentine laboratory, had been tampered with. The fall-out was enormous.

Inter, for their part, reacted angrily to the implicit charge that they must have been responsible for such tampering. And against the abrupt disappearance of the famous flagons. The *corpus delicti*, you might say, in liquid form. The "magistracy" had sequestered the flagons.

Their absence seemed not to bother the League. On March 20, they handed down their fearsome sentences. Three points deducted from Bologna, two for the Torino game and another one for luck. And then, the unkindest cut of all, an 18-month suspension for Bernardini, flawless hero, the white hen who never laid a stray.

It was as good, or as bad, as presenting the *scudetto* to Inter. Predictably, on March 29, Inter went to Bologna, and beat them, 2-1. The sporting Bologna fans, relying on the magistracy to see fair play, applauded Inter's win.

Finally, they were not disappointed. But in the meantime, Bologna's team had to live with their outrage and disappointment, their sense of extreme injustice, and it was no wonder that things went wrong.

Their fine team, whose powerful, inventive midfield included such internationals as Giacomo Bulgarelli, the local boy, and Helmut Haller of West Germany, continued to thrive. But away points were dropped in goalless draws with Mantova and Juventus, and Inter seemed unreachable.

Still unable to get the flagons released by the magistratura, the Federal Commission of Appeal used that on May 16 as a fairly palpable excuse to let Bologna off the hook. "Not proven" was more or less the burden of their decision.

Soon after that the authorities released their own conclusions: "I soliti ignori," the usual unknowns, had tampered with the flagons. Insufficient precautions had been taken to safeguard them.

So Bernardini no longer had to give his instructions by what Ghirelli quaintly calls talkie-walkie from the stand. He could both walkie and talkie, on the sidelines.

The day after the decision, a point was dropped (or gained?) in Turin against Juventus. Two games to go. Messina were beaten 2-0 at home. That meant level pegging at the top with Inter, who beat Atalanta 2-1. Which in turn, under Italian League rules meant a play-off.

This took place in the Olympic Stadium, Rome, on June 7, and Bologna won, 2-0, ironically, a few days after the death of their long-serving president, Renato Dall'Ara.

The Inter directors did everything they could to persuade the Italian FA president, Pasquale, to share the title. But Pasquale, his Bolognese house besieged by threatening fans, would not agree.

Facchetti, Inter and Italy's left-back, diverted Fogli's shot into his own goal. The prolific Danish centre-forward, Harald Nielsen, scored his 21st of the season.

And Bologna, flagons or no flagons, were properly champions.

'The most scandalous, the most confused, the most laughable case in the entire story of Italian football'

Land of dope and glory

British football has been slow to recognise the drugs threat, says MARK IRWIN

BRITISH soccer is slowly waking up to the danger posed to its well-being by the growing menace of performance-enhancing drugs.

But in the wake of the Maradona World Cup scandal, there is still an alarming complacency within the game concerning the dope cheats.

With the backing of the English, Welsh and Scottish FAs, the Sports Council carried out random drugs test at 37 matches throughout Britain during the 1993-94 season. Just 152 players were tested in total, less than half a per cent of Britain's 3,500 professional footballers.

Yet even of that tiny cross-section, one player provided a sample which tested positive for an amphetamine stimulant controlled under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

The Sports Council reports that the offender was suspended, but our further inquiries failed to reveal either the identity of the player or the nature of the ban handed out to him.

Sports Council spokesman John Roberts admits that football is not exactly top of its list of priorities at a time when British athletics is still reeling from the controversies surrounding Diane Modahl, Paul Edwards and Solomon Wariso.

"The main concern of our doping control service is to detect steroid abuse because, as well as being performance enhancing, they are also potentially dangerous to the long term health of the sportsman," says Roberts.

"There is no evidence of steroids being used in football because they are not the sort of drugs which would help a player's performance.

> *'I've talked to all the other physios in the First Division and, as far as I am aware, there weren't any tests carried out in our division last season'*

"It would also be a lot more difficult for a competitor in a professional team sport under constant medical supervision from the club's doctors and physios to cheat in this way than for an athlete who travels and competes independently."

Cost also plays a part, with Roberts admitting: "These tests are very expensive and though they are the same for every sport, we do not spend a lot of time looking for drugs which are unlikely to be of any benefit to that particular sport."

The FA insists that the fact that it hase this season amended its misconduct rule to include any member who has committed a "Doping Offence" as defined in the "Memorandum on Drug testing" proves their determination to come to terms with the menace.

That Memorandum lists more than a hundred banned substances and their derivatives. Among the more familiar names to crop up in the baffling table of chemicals are cocaine, amphetamine, ephedrine, morphine, heroin, methadone, ecstasy and strychnine. Among the social drugs not regarded as prohibited substances by the FA are marijuana and barbiturates.

Fortunately for many footballers we can think of, alcohol is also not on the banned list but caffeine is outlawed if supplied in unusually high levels.

The new regulations also allow for independent sampling officers and FA officials to turn up unannounced at training grounds to carry out their random tests, although the concept of "out of season testing" doesn't really apply to a sport which now runs from August to May with six weeks of pre-season friendlies in between.

Roberts agrees with the FA view that performance-enhancing drugs are not a major problem in football and believes the positive tests provided in recent years have been more a result of ignorance than malicious intent.

"We provide every club with a list of the prohibited substances and they pass that list on to their players," he says.

"If the players have been taking any form of medication we ask them to put that down on the special form we provide them with before they take a dope test. If something appears in the test which a player has already told us about, there is usually an explanation for it.

"The problems arise if we discover something which hasn't been declared. Then we have to decide whether it was something they just forgot to mention, something they didn't realise was prohibited or whether they were trying to hide something.

"But as far as the Sports Council is concerned, it is not our job to decide an athlete's guilt or innocence. Different sports have different prohibited substances, so we just report our findings to the appropriate governing bodies and they act accordingly, says Roberts."

Although most football league club physios insists that there is no major drugs problem in British football, many feel that if a player does provide a positive test these days, it is far more likely to be for a "social" drug rather than a performance enhancing one.

"The whole drugs issue has become a social one," insists Millwall physio Peter Melville. "There are young kids taking all sots of stuff these days and some of them are bound to be talented footballers who will end up joining professional clubs.

"If they have a habit, it's very hard to stop them continuing with it. That is why this season the FA have powers to test apprentices, youth team players and even kids of 12 years old with parental consent.

"As a club, all we can do is educate the players as much as possible and make them aware of exactly where they stand.

"We give them a list of banned substances and if they are ill we encourage them to give me a ring to check exactly what they can and can't take.

"All the players know the regulations and if they are taking something illegal and get caught, they've only got themselves to blame."

Melville insists that Millwall have no objections to the Football Association extending their testing programme but reveals that he has yet to see any evidence of this supposed new vigilance in the war on drugs.

"There hasn't been a test on any Millwall player since the start of the 1989 season and I have to admit that does surprise me," he reveals.

"I've talked to all the other physios in the First Division and, as far as I am aware, there weren't any tests carried out in our division last season.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they targeted clubs in certain areas with drug related problems and I would have thought that Millwall would fall into that category. But we've had nothing for five years.

"To be quite honest, in all my 24 years as a physio, I haven't come across anyone in football who has used drugs.

"But maybe the authorities are trying to make sure that everyone starts on a level playing field and that it's only the skills of a player which gives him an advantage."

Problem? What problem?

In Germany, official results contrast with the words of the men who should know — the top players. ARTHUR ROTMIL reports

NOT A single Bundesliga player has tested positive since mandatory random controls were introduced by the DFB in the 1988-89 season.

Yet over the years there have been allegations made by some of the most prominent players and managers, that dope-taking was prevalent in league football. Even as far back as 40 years ago, after West Germany had won their first World Cup, in Switzerland, that marvellous team mysteriously disintegrated, losing their next three matches on the trot to Belgium, France and England.

In what was billed as the biggest prestige match then held at Wembley, the Germans were able to field only three of their world champions — the rest were unavailable, said to be suffering from jaundice. Some observers pointed a finger of suspicion and whispered of drugs, but in those days there were no tests and the accusations were dismissed as absurd.

At the 1966 World Cup finals two German players provided dope test samples which intrigued laboratory workers in the pharmacy department of Chelsea College of Science and Technology. The substance detected was — intriguingly — ephedrine. It had been contained in nasal drops used by two of the German players who had been suffering from cold symptoms. The incident only came to light much later, in the official World Cup Report published by the Football Association.

With the creation of the first national fully professional league (Bundesliga) increased financial rewards were on offer from bumper gates, sponsorship, advertising and television. Some players were soon suspected of taking performance-enhancing stimulants.

One of Germany's all-time greats Franz Beckenbauer, the only footballer in history to captain and manage a World Cup winning side, claimed in 1977: "There are all kinds of medical aids still permitted in the Bundesliga to help the players reach peaks of stamina and endurance. Pills are swallowed and injections used."

Five years later his former Bayern club and national team colleague Paul Breitner suggested: "Everybody who is honest in this business cannot overlook the fact that dope-taking is rife."

While these may have been vague generalisations the real bombshell exploded in February 1987 with the publication of a sensational book, *Anpfiff*, which translates as "starting whistle" (meaning at the kick-off). Its author was none other than West Germany's Footballer of the Year and captain of the national team, goalkeeper Toni Schumacher. His allegations of dope-taking and sex sessions, together with personal attacks on his national team mates, rocked the nation.

Schumacher claimed that "dope-taking is quite common in the Bundesliga". He was promptly suspended by his club, Koln, and put on the transfer list, while president Peter Weiand retorted: "Anybody who spreads such stories should have his head examined". Weiand also ordered immediate dope tests at the club.

Toni Schumacher . . . bombshell book.

Adding fuel to the controversy, a lightning poll of 216 professional players came up with 31 who admitted that "dope-taking is prevalent in the Bundesliga".

The DFB, which also banned Schumacher from the national side, launched an immediate inquiry and appointed a commission which subseuently recommended regular dope checks.

The national team doctor, Professor Heinrich Hess, who called for stringent controls, pointed out, however, that drugs could not produce any improvement in a player's technical ability, merely raise his level of physical endurance. "The more stimulants are taken, the less effective they become and they eventually prove counter productive, at least in team games like soccer," explained Hess.

Sex and doping are normally taboo subjects in German football. That is perhaps why the first edition of Schumacher book sold over 200,000 copies and was translated into many languages, including Russian, Hebrew, Turkish and Japanese.

Schumacher admits that once in training he tried Captagon. But generally, he claims, cough mixtures with the stimulant ephedrine are favoured. Koln players used to swallow liquids containing ephedrine before an important match, claimed Schumacher. "They then ran like devils all over the pitch and of course we won the game," he recalls. He also revealed that as a young pro he was aware of several star players consulting a Cologne doctor, who would supply them with tablets and injections. That is why he believes that doping is "traditional" in the Bundesliga.

Last year the former manager of VfB Stuttgart, Christoph Daum, insisted that many players were taking Captagon. But later, when pressed, he claimed that he was misunderstood and quoted out of context.

● The most recent case of possible drug abuse took place in the 1992/93 season and involved the Second Division player Oliver Moller from Eintracht Braunschweig, who now plays in amateur football.

After his "A" urine sample was tested positive, the DFB failed to order a B test and later blamed a misunderstanding between the disciplinary commision and Prof Dr Manfred Donicke, the head of Germany's Institute for Research into drug-related cases.

Ball of confusion

IT'S NOT just soccer's millionaires who have fallen foul of the dope testers. Six months ago Cardiff City defender Damon Searle provided a positive sample after the Welsh Cup Final against Barry Town.

Cardiff medical officer Dr Leslie Hamilton said it was all a huge mistake, insisting: "Damon had a headache before the game, but instead of being given a paracetamol he was mistakenly handed a distalgesic which contained a banned substance."

No action was taken against Searle or Cardiff after an FA of Wales commission decided the player had made a genuine mistake. Ironically, Cardiff once offered a trial to banned sprinter Jason Livingstone.

It was only three years ago that former Spurs and England defender Graham Roberts failed a dope test while playing for West Bromwich Albion. Roberts recalls: "That was one of the worst moments of my career and a very worrying time for me.

"Me and the kids all had a really bad cough the night before a game, so we took some Benylin in order to get some sleep.

"The next day I was selected for a random dope test and never for one moment suspected that what I had taken was classified as a prohibited substance.

"I was only saved by the fact that I had declared what I had taken before the test was administered and so could prove there was no way I was trying to hide anything.

"I couldn't believe it when I was later told that I'd provided a positive test, but it was a genuine mistake born out of ignorance of the nature of the cough mixture I had taken.

"It certainly made me realise that you can never be too careful about what might seem to be even the most harmless medication."

Dope confusion is nothing new. The legendary Wolves manager of the 1930s and 1940s, Major Frank Buckley, caused a furore with his so-called "monkey-gland" treatment. In the early 1960s the Sunday newspapers had a field day with reports that Everton directors had "bugged" the homes of several star players after reports of pep pills use.

Johnny Byrne, the former England forward, later claimed that — at that time in the game — he took benzedrine and fencamfamine before big matches because of nerves and that "at least 50 per cent of internationals take stimulants."

Damon Searle . . . tested positive.

Not to be sniffed at

ALTHOUGH the soccer grapevine has been buzzing for years with rumours of top British players heavily involved in the drug scene none have ever admitted to taking anything illegal.

Former Southampton and Birmingham defender Mark Dennis did reveal in a recent Sunday newspaper that the end of his career had been accelerated by a costly cocaine habit and one-time Arsenal striker Paul Vaessen almost lost his life in an argument over a heroin deal.

For any current player to make the same admission would effectively end his career.

Nevertheless, with cocaine, ecstasy, speed and dope now such a common part of the nightclub culture frequented by so many footballers, it would be naive to think that somewhere among the affluent 500 young men who play in the Premiership, there are not at least a couple who have been tempted.

Such social drugs would certainly show up in any random dope test, with possible serious repurcussions for the player involved.

Cocaine, speed, heroin and ecstasy are all regarded as Class A drugs by the FA. As such, they are prohibited substances.

Marijuana and barbituates are Class B drugs and not specifically prohibited. But players whose samples show those drugs can be sent for treatment and rehabilitation and could be charged with bringing the game into disrepute.

Pills, thrills and bellyaches

Andres Escobar . . . tragic victim.

ERIC WEIL *reports on the long and eventful history of drugs in South American soccer.*

DOPING in soccer on the South American continent is as old as the hills in the broad sense, from vitamin compacts, containing certain medicinal products which are sold over the counter, to hard drugs. But drug testing — with two players picked from each team for testing after every major league match — only began in Argentina in 1980. And Argentina was the first South American country to introduce tests.

Even today, says Eduardo Deluca Argentine delegate to CONMEBOL, Argentina and Brazil are the only two countries with testing equipment that meets world class standards.

When Libertadores Cup matches — where testing began only six years ago — are played in any other countries, Argentine doctors travel to take the test and bring the samples back to analyse them.

In Uruguay, where there have been several positive tests in recent times, but with inferior equipment, teasting will be raised to world standards by next year in time for the South American nations championship there. In Ecuador for example, drug testing only started at the end of September. But there are no laboratories with the right equipment, so samples have to be sent to Mexico.

Punishment has differed widely. In Uruguay players have been suspended, while in Chile recently Universidad de Chile simply cancelled Luis Guarda's contract after he failed a dope test.

One loophole has been the player's excuse that he could not pass urine, but in Brazil Vasca de Gama's William Cesar has been provisionally banned for three weeks for not provding a sample.

In Argentina punishments have ranged from the player's suspension to loss of points for the club, while others have got off because they were prescribed medicines which have to be entered on a form before the game, but which may well contain drugs not on the FA list. The number of medicines entered on most team sheets is surprisingly high.

Many coaches make players take concoctions or even injections under the name of vitamins which, if properly administered do not contain drugs on the forbidden list, but are, nevertheless performance enhancing in one way or another.

Drugs are not always performance-enhancing. Last year, Wenceslao Aguilera, a paramedic with Iberia in Chile's Third Division, was arrested for giving his own team sleeping pills! He admitted he had told the players they were taking vitamin pills, but denied allegations that he had been paid $250 to dope the team before a crucial promotion decider.

In Argentina, Doctor Roberto Avanzi is a man who knows both sides. He used to be a professional player and now specialises in sports medicine. "In my days they all took some kind of drug, but there is very little of it now," he says, which is not surprising since testing began. But coaches are continually trying to find new substances which are not on the forbidden list or would not show up in urine.

Avanzi said that Argentina's testing equipment may be among the best on the continent, but it is not nearly as sophisticated as that used by the IOC, because of costs. "If we suddenly sent the samples to be controlled by them, positive tests would result for almost every player tested," he said.

But, Avanzi points out, cocaine is still very popular among players — not just cocaine tea (made from coca leaves) which is drunk to overcome altitude problems in such countries as Bolivia and Ecuador and as a result of which a Brazilian player (Zetti) gave a positive test during the last South American Championship, although he was later pardoned. If a player takes cocaine in the first half of the week, by the time he is tested after a weekend match there will be no trace of it left in his body.

Several years ago the same Dr Avanzi worked at Racing Club feeding players a special vitamin concoction. They won game after game at the start of the season, but suddenly slumped with a large injury list. Avanzi's "concoction" was blamed and dismissed.

In 1977 and 1978, when Boca Juniors won the Libertadores Cup, there were strong rumours that players were on drugs. Most soon succumbed to injuries which quickly ended their careers. Juan Carlos Lorenzo, their coach at the time, strongly denies the accusations of drug-taking, saying success was due to training hard . . . but the rumour persists.

In 1986 *The Sunday Times* claimed to have evidence that several of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winners had taken amphetamines but that no positive tests were recorded because "the urine samples were always provided by the team waterboy who, naturally, was clean of drugs."

> *'If a player takes cocaine in the first half of the week, by the time he is tested after a weekend match there will be no trace of it left in his body'*

Ruben Oliva, for many years medical adviser to the Argentine national team and also personal adviser to Diego Maradona, was reported as saying he had, for many years, sought to cure players of the drug habit.

Ramon Quiroga, Peru's keeper when Argentina thrashed them 6-0 in the decisive second-stage match in 1978, said: "Argentina ran like madmen, with a speed and strength I've never seen. Perhaps it was the excitement of the crowd . . .or maybe something else."

After 1980, when drug testing started in Argentina, but not in the Libertadores Cup, Argentine clubs often used to field entire reserve teams in the league after playing in the Cup. The inference being that they had taken drugs for the cup game and wanted to avoid the risk of positive drug tests after the league game a few days later.

And later, when Daniel Passarella — a great foe of drugs — became coach of River Plate he frequently separated leading players from the team . . . and not because they played badly either. They were then either sold or had their contracts terminated. International defender Jose Serrizuela was one of them. He swears he never took drugs, but he knows others were kicked out for that reason.

Another kind of doping was used by a Colombian team in the Libertadores Cup in the 1980s — believed to be America or Nacional. This was blood doping and it also escaped detection.

A major worry in Colombian soccer is drug money. Many clubs are partly-owned by drug gangs and used for money laundering. This is done by buying players, often at higher prices than are actually paid, with the balance of the cash staying abroad.

Worse is the introduction of drug money into betting on results which has resulted in bribing and killing. In 1989, a referee, Alvaro Ortega, was killed for this reason and the latest of a series of murders linked to betting was that of Colombian World Cup defender Andres Escobar.

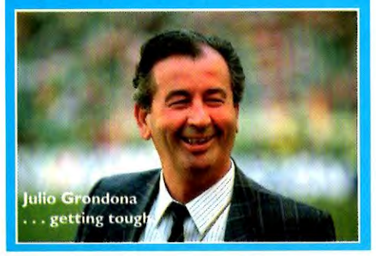
Cracking down

IN THE wake of recent drug scandals, Argentina looks set to enforce doping tests for all national team players. Newly-appointed coach Daniel Passarella, an advocate of stricter monitoring, has won the support of Argentine Football Association (AFA) president Julio Grondona. "This would not be a problem," Grondona, a vice-president of FIFA, said. "In a sport where the stakes are so high, we must do everything to put our minds at rest."

Passarella said that he believed all Argentine national team players should undergo mandatory doping tests — including special renoscopic tests to find cocaine users.

His pioneering efforts, however, have ruffled the feathers of some of Argentina sporting heroes, including Maradona. "This is shameful. Next thing you know we'll have (Argentine drug czar) Alberto Lestelle working for the AFA," an indignant Maradona cried.

Cesar Menotti, Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning coach, called the idea "idiotic" and said talk of a drug problem in soccer had been blown out of proportion. "Fathers will now think twice about sending their kids to clubs for fear that they're full of junkies," he said.


Julio Grondona . . . getting tough

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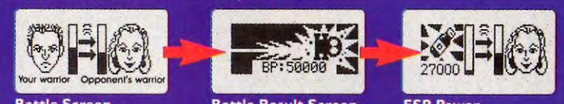

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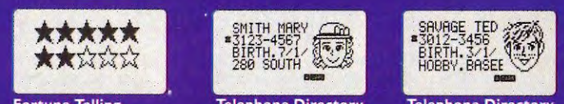

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CASIO

Fading away

ITALIAN DREAMS OF SUCCESS IN THIS SEASON'S EUROPEAN CUP COMPETITIONS ARE FADING FAST. KEIR RADNEDGE REPORTS

MILAN HIT NEW CHAMPIONS LEAGUE UPSET

INJURY-HIT European champions Milan met new problems when goalkeeper Otto Konrad of Austrian rivals Casino Salzburg was struck on the head by a bottle during a Champions League tie in the Stadio Meazza.

After Milan had lost their first match away to Ajax, they risked losing this one at the hands of UEFA's disciplinary commission.

Despite Milan claims that Konrad had been pretending to be injured, Swedish referee Leif Sundell had no doubt. He said: "Straight after Giovanni Stroppa scored Milan's first goal in the 40th minute two plastic bottles containing mineral water plus a liqueur bottle rained down on to the pitch. One of the bottles, not full but almost, hit the goalkeeper Konrad on the head. There was no blood and I'm not a doctor. I took note of the incident."

Konrad played on after treatment but insisted on being substituted after Milan were shot 2-0 into the lead by Marco Simone. Konrad spent the night in hospital under observation while Salzburg, without him, ultimately lost 3-0. After the match they immediately appealed to UEFA, the European governing body, for the result of the match to be reversed or for a replay to be ordered on neutral territory.

Milan coach Fabio Capello has said UEFA should consider disciplining Konrad for feigning injury. But Konrad said: "I know what Milan are saying — that if I had been groggy how could I have made those saves from Ruud Gullit and Demetrio Albertini. But at that point I still felt fine. It was afterwards that I lost it. I asked for the physio and doctor to come on. When the referee refused I went off. In the dressing rooms my head was spinning and I was ill."

Milan's victory — temporarily at least — lifted them into second place in Group D behind Ajax Amsterdam who beat AEK Athens 2-1 in Greece with goals from Finnish international Jari Litmanen after 33 minutes and 18-year-old Patrick Kluivert after 63 minutes.

Ajax are one of only two teams with a 100 per cent record after the completion of the first two of the six rounds in the league stage of the competition. The others are Paris Saint-Germain, who put aside poor domestic form to score another important Champions' League victory. First they beat Bayern Munich then they followed that up with a 2-1 win over Moscow Spartak in Russia.

Manchester United went a point clear at the top of Group A when they drew 0-0 at Galatsaray in Turkey. Although trouble was feared after a violent confrontation between the clubs there last November, the match was a relatively tame one although four players were booked by Dutch referee Mario van der Ende — one from Galatasaray and three from United. In the same group Barcelona led IFK Gothenburg 1-0 with 16 minutes to play but the home side struck twice through Magnus Erlingmark and Jesper Blomqvist to win 2-1.

Benfica moved to the top of Group C with Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia scoring twice in their 3-1 win over Anderlecht. But he squandered the chance of a hat-trick when he missed a penalty two minutes after halftime.

In the Cup-winners Cup, holders Arsenal beat the weak Cypriot team Omonia Nicosia easily over two legs in the first round. Ian Wright scored his 98th and 99th goals for Arsenal and Swedish World Cup star Stefan Schwarz scored his first in Arsenal's 3-0 win in front of their own fans in North London in the second leg.

Arsenal's win completed a victorious double for London sides as Chelsea, winners of this tournament in 1971, advanced with a 4-2 aggregate win over Czech side Viktoria Zizkov after a 0-0 draw in the second leg in Jablonec. Russian goalkeeper Dimitri Kharine was Chelsea's hero, superbly saving Petr Vrabec's penalty and the follow-up shot from Karel Poborsky in the first half.

It was a successful week for Germany — Werder Bremen winning through to the second round of the Cup-winners Cup after the successes of Borussia Dortmund, Eintracht Frankfurt, Kaiserslautern and Bayer Leverkusen in the UEFA Cup. Bremen overcame Maccabi Tel Aviv of Israel 2-0 with a goal direct from a corner by Mario Basler after 81 minutes wrapping up the tie 2-0 on aggregate after the first leg ended 0-0.

The biggest winners of the night were Panathinaikos of Greece who thrashed Pirin of Bulgaria 6-1 for an 8-1 aggregate victory. The Greeks' hero was Polish international Krzysztof Warzycha who scored a hat-trick with two goals in the last three minutes.

Perhaps the biggest first-round shock in Europe was the elimination of Italy's Internazionale, holders of the UEFA Cup. They lost 4-3 on penalties to Aston Villa in England after the sides finished 1-1 on aggregate at the end of extra time. Villa won the second leg 1-0 to square the aggregate thanks to a goal by veteran Irish international Ray Houghton after 41 minutes. It was the second time Houghton had scored against Pagliuca this summer, the first was when he scored Ireland's winning goal against Italy in the first round of the World Cup in June.

BECKENBAUER TAKEOVER AT BAYERN

FRANZ BECKENBAUER is about to take another step upward in his fabulous career. This time the greatest German footballer of all time is becoming president of the club with whom he made his name in the 1960s and 1970s — Bayern Munich.

Beckenbauer was three times a European club champion with Bayern in the 1970s, returned later as vice-president, coached the team to the German league title last season and was persuaded then to stand for club president by Edmund Stoiber — who is not only a senior official with the club but is also Prime Minister of the German region of Bavaria of which Munich is the capital.

Beckenbauer was seen as the ideal candidate by fellow directors afraid of the problems in prospect if the outgoing president, Fritz Scherer, were to be opposed by Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, another former Bayern star player. Few observers doubted Beckenbauer's credentials. The former Bayern manager Robert Schwan, a long-time friend and adviser, said: "Franz is the ideal solution. There is no better candidate. He has all the advantages Bayern need at the moment."

As well as his star-studded career with Bayern, Beckenbauer captained West Germany to victory in the 1974 World Cup and then over as national manager in 1984 — leading them to the 1990 World Cup title in Italy.

Almost 50, Beckenbauer has the ideal image — with his impeccable dress sense, his diplomacy and a love of golf all redolent of a top-class executive.

The life of the Bavarian postman's son has not always been plain sailing, however. Following a dispute with the Bavarian tax authorities he now lives in Austria and a very public affair with a Munich photographer in his younger days put him in the spotlight for his off-the-field activities. In the middle of a tense championship run-in last season, Beckenbauer was involved in a bitter public row with Germany coach Berti Vogts over the release of several Bayern players from international duty.

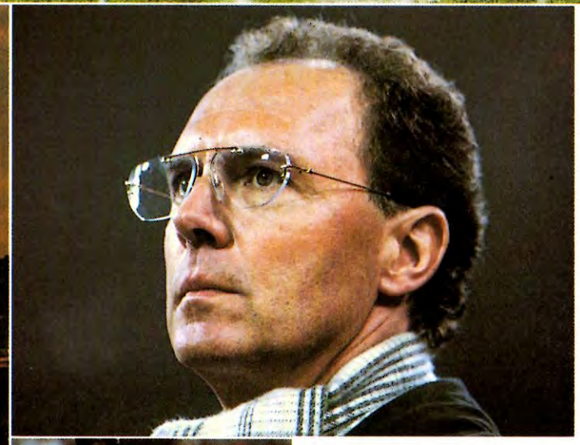
In typical Beckenbauer style, the two men, who worked together at the 1990 World Cup, patched up their differences over a civilised afternoon session of coffee and cakes in Chicago during the World Cup.

Bayern need Beckenbauer's steadying influence after an inconsistent start to the season under new Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

LOW COUNTRIES TO HOST EURO 2000

HOLLAND and Belgium are set to jointly stage the finals of the European Championship in the year 2000. UEFA, the European governing body, received only one hosting bid by the closing date. The application now has to be considered by UEFA's European Championship committee. The final decision is due in the spring of 1995 following detailed examination of the bid.

Inter the net . . . Phil King's penalty knocks holders Internazionale out of the UEFA Cup. Clockwise from below left: Milan boss Fabio Capello; Franz Beckenbauer; the late 'Raich' Carter; Michel De Wolf.



ALL OVER FOR DE WOLF — AGAIN

VETERAN defender Michel De Wolf has ended his international career for a second time.

De Wolf, outstanding as Belgium's sweeper at the World Cup finals in the United States, was dropped by coach Paul Van Himst from the squad for the European Championship qualifier against Denmark because his French club, Marseille, refused to release him as early as Belgium wanted.

De Wolf retired from the Belgian national team after the 1992 European Championship but Van Himst then persuaded him to make a comeback because of an injury crisis.

Van Himst said: "Marseille would not allow him to join up with the squad until Sunday night at the earliest and that was too late. We needed him on the Saturday, at least. It is not really Michel's fault. He has been put in a difficult position and is the victim of the situation. But, clearly, we cannot run this risk every time we have a match. I will have to look elsewhere." .

De Wolf played in all four of Belgium's World Cup matches and in their opening European Championship qualifier against Armenia a month ago, but this incident almost certainly signals the end of his international career after 42 appearances.

De Wolf said: "I want to play for both Marseille and for Belgium, but if I have to make a choice at my age the best choice is to prefer Marseille instead of maybe one or two more matches for the national team."

SOCCER LEGEND 'RAICH' DIES

RAICH CARTER, widely acknowledged as one of England's greatest inside forwards, had died aged 80. Carter played inside forward for England for 14 years in the 1930s and 1940s and, in terms of talet and ability, was ranked alongside Sir Stanley Matthews, Tommy Lawton, Wilf Mannion and Tom Finney. Carter — his "real" first name was Horatio — played for Sunderland, Derby County and Hull City and made 13 appearances for England. His death follws five weeks after that of England captain Billy Wright.

THAI SKIPPER FAILS ASIAN GAMES DOPE TEST

THAILAND captain Sirisak Kadalee failed a dope test at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, Kadalee was sent home before the end of the first round. Banned stimulents were found in a sample provided by Kadalee after a 4-2 defeat by Saudi Arabia. Thailand, who had already lost to hong Kong, also went down 5-4 in their next match against Uzbekistan.

BY PADDY AGNEW

Baresi bows out

The World Cup final proved to be Franco Baresi's last game for the Italian national side

FIVE weeks into the new Italian season and already it is all change in the most "beautiful" league in the world, and not just because this season a Serie A win is worth three points.

The retirement of Italy captain Franco Baresi, the sacking of Torino coach Rosario Rampanti, a police blitz on 33 First and Second Division clubs and the bright starts by AS Roma and Parma have set the new season rolling with a vengeance.

The international retirement of 34-year-old-sweeper Baresi can hardly be called a surprise.

Two years ago, at the beginning of Italy's qualifying campaign for USA '94, Baresi had announced his retirement only to withdraw it one month later, under pressure from coach Arrigo Sacchi, one of his most fervent admirers.

"This time, there'll be no chance to change my mind. I'm not fed up with soccer. I've been playing for 20 years and I still feel good, but my age is what is it is.

"The future belongs to younger players."

Baresi's final appearance for Italy, against Brazil in this summer's World Cup Final in Los Angeles, was arguably the finest performance of his 81-cap international career.

Baresi, brought back into the team following a cartilege operation 23 days earlier, gave a commanding display that was full of the authority, vision and footballing intelligence that have always distinguished him.

Correctly, the August issue of *WORLD SOCCER* reported that the Baresi performance in Los Angeles had already entered World Cup legend.

Italian coach Sacchi was not joking either when he told reporters that he would be both "poorer and more alone" following the retirement of Baresi, adding: "Baresi was the player who gave me most.

"I spoke to him frankly as always and he told me that he wasn't sure if he could make it all the way to 1996 [European Championship in England].

"It is with immense sadness that I have to acknowledge that even for him, time passes."

Asked who he considered his natural successors in the Italian side, Baresi responded with the names of his Milan team-mates, central defender Alessandro Costacurta and left-back Paolo Maldini.

In the immediate post-Baresi era, there is little doubt that these two will be asked to step into the Baresi role, either alongside one another or alongside Parma's Luigi Apolloni.

All change in Serie A

IF BARESI'S departure from the international scene was bitter-sweet, that of Torino coach Rosario Rampanti, sacked after only three league games, was bitter-bitter.

Beaten 2-0 and 3-0 by Internazionale and Lazio respectively on the opening two days, Torino had appeared to find peace of mind and guarantee Rampanti's job when beating Padova 2-0 on the third day and when qualifying for the third round of the Italian Cup by eliminating Second Division Monza, all in the same week.

New Torino president, Gian Marco Calleri, once of Lazio, had other ideas and sent his man packing for reasons that had more to do with tensions between the two men than with results. Rampanti's place has been taken by Nedo Sonetti, a man not unfamiliar with the topsy-turvy nature of football coaching since last season he learnt that he had been relieved of his post at Lecce, during a live television chat programme on which he was one of the guests.

While Torino were squabbling, Parma and AS Roma were making the most of a hesitant seasonal start by champions Milan to go top of the table after five days.

Milan's defeats by Ajax Amsterdam in the Champions League, by Cremonese in the Serie A and by Palermo in the Italian Cup all sounded an inevitable alarm about the impending twilight of the one-time Gods.

Post-World Cup stress among the seven Milan players who featured in the Italian squad at USA '94 and a series of injuries to key players such as Frenchman Marcel Desailly, Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, strikers Marco Simone and Daniele Massaro, midfielder Stefano Eranio and defenders Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta provide the explanation for the poor Milan start — at least according to Milan coach Fabio Capello.

Time will tell, but what already seems certain is that this season Milan will not enjoy the sort of pillar to post, unopposed success which marked their three successive titles of 1992, '93 and '94.

Balbo . . . blinding.

Fonseca . . . firing.

Milan . . . stumbling.

Brolin . . . brilliant start.

Just as well that prodigal son Ruud Gullit has started off this season where he left off last year with Sampdoria.

Without his goals, Milan might have already suffered irreparable damage.

Parma's candidacy as a title pretender has been obvious to all for some while now but it has come as a surprise to find Roma up there on top for the first time since the heady days of a decade ago when Brazilians Falcao and Cerezo provided the side's inspiration.

As with the championship-winning Roma side of the 1980s, so too does this new-look Roma rely on Latin American talent.

The $24million double act of Argentinian Abel Balbo and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca struck seven times in five games to suggest that, whatever else, Roma will provide a great deal more spectacle this year than in recent disappointing seasons.

Lest anyone had failed to take the Latin American tandem seriously, Sampdoria's courteous Swedish coach Sven Eriksson spelt it out loud and clear after his side had been beaten 1-0 by a Balbo goal brilliantly taken and equally brilliantly set up by Fonseca. "Apart from the last 15 minutes when we were chasing the game and obviously exposed ourselves, we made only one defensive error all afternoon and those pair [Balbo and Fonseca] jumped on it to kill us off," said Eriksson.

Enrico Annoni, AS Roma's tough full-back, was understandably even more enthusiastic about his team-mates when saying : "I think you'd have to say at this stage that these two [Balbo and Fonseca] represent a serious problem for any defence, anywhere."

Serious problems for defences are also likely to come from the Parma strike force of Italian international Gianfranco Zola, partnered either by compatriot Marco Branca or by Colombian Faustino Asprilla.

The fact that the last mentioned is not guaranteed automatic selection is explained by the inevitable foreign player quota crisis, with Asprilla involved in a four-way fight for three places with Swedish striker-cum-midfielder Tomas Brolin, Argentinian midfielder Nestor Sensini and new signing, Portuguese central defender Fernando Couto.

Sensini is a player who reminds Scala of himself and is therefore much favoured, with the coach saying early this season that the Argentinian is the most tactically accomplished player in the squad.

Brolin came back from Sweden's successful World Cup run galvanised and playing well, while Couto has made a fabulous start in Italian soccer, scoring two headed goals in his opening three games and displaying all-round defensive security and class.

All of which means that Asprilla has been dropped on occasion and has begun to complain.

To pacify him, the club have pointed out that this summer coach Scala refused a purchase option on both Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp (that now looks a good decision given the Dutchman's dire form at Inter) and on Barcelona's Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov.

For his part, Zola believes that all the foreigners will get their chance in a busy season, adding that Parma's championship intentions have to be taken very seriously indeed this year. "This year we are a much more authoritative team," said Zola. "We've taken a huge step forward from the mental point of view, we're not afraid and thus our game is that much more fluid"

● Fluid might be an adjective well suited to the accountancy practices of a number of Italian First and Second Divison clubs, according to the former president of Second Division Monza, Francesco Farina.

A formal complaint filed by him in August with the State Attorney's offices of Rome and Milan prompted a blitz by Finance Police and Inspectors in the offices of 33 clubs in early October, clubs which included all the biggest names in Italian soccer.

The tax inspectors made no arrests since they were merely carrying out a preliminary investigation, looking into club account books to check if social security payments had been correctly paid.

If such payments have not been made, then not only would the clubs face legal proceedings, but also they would have to be thrown out of the league (according to league rules) until such time as their financial house is put in order.

Given the pace at which Italian justice moves, however, this season's championship is unlikely to be much interferred with by the ongoing investigation.

PADDY AGNEW

Hard times

ITALY is no longer the paradise, the promised land where footballers from all over the world flock in the hope of becoming millionaires overnight.

Italian clubs, even the richest, have overstretched themselves financially and all, without exception, are heavily in the red. Champions Milan bemoan a deficit of £40million; the collective debt of the 18 clubs in Serie A is put at £200million.

Milan's owner-president, the media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, now the Prime Minister of Italy, warns: "We in Italian football must all tighten our belts. Not even Milan can afford in future to pay millions for any single player." The alarm bells started ringing with the news that sales of season tickets were 30 per cent down on last year.

At the start of last season the total number of tickets sold was 352,681. This year 237,243 had been sold. Milan's figures were 58,532 down to 39,500.

The clubs previously heeded Berlusconi's warning and when the transfer period closed (it opens again this month) they had signed only 17 new foreigners, while 31 had left the country. The contingent of "legionaires" has been reduced from 70 to 56.

For the first time since 1980 — when the borders were re-opened to foreign imports — the most expensive league in the world took more money from selling than they spent on buying foreigners. The 17 newcomers cost a total of £21million while those departing brought in £29million.

Including deals for homegrown or home-based players, the turnover in the transfer marked reached only £107million — £31million less than last year.

The League management ordered a end to inflated transfer fees, signing-on handouts and excessive win bonuses, perks which for years have boosted earnings that were already the highest in the world. And the governing body stopped the invidious practice of paying hefty annual bonuses to players just for continuing under contract - in orther words a form of reward for not asking for a transfer.

The new regulations are a direct result of the financial scandals which have rocked Italy politically, economically and morally. These have sadly involved some of the most respected football club presidents, including Ernesto Pellegrini of Internazionale and Napoli's Corrado Ferlaino.

Nearly every club relies on a benefactor to pump millions, often from his personal fortune, into the soccer club he presides over. Where would Milan be without Berlusconi? Or Inter without Pellegrini, Juventus without Gianni Agnelli, or Napoli without Ferlaino?

Since 1992 seven club presidents have been jailed, charged with fraud and embezzlement. Several have pulled out of football business altogether and can no longer support their clubs. So there is no longer the money available to clubs where once there was a seemingly bottomless pit.

The League's supremo, Luciano Nizzola, announced new measures during the coming months: "Every club will be investigated for financial irregularities not once, as till now, but twice a year. Those who owe money to the FA, to other clubs, or to the tax office will have their cut from pools, television and even the profits from transfers impounded."

Berlusconi . . . tightening the purse strings.

It seems that the "good old days" are over. Serie A still has 56 foreigners, but many of them are workhorses rather than artists. Numerous foreign players, upset by the bizarre club policy of engaging more imports than are permitted to play and being forced to sit out matches in the stands, have been glad to quit the highly competitive world of calcio.

Since 1991 10 German internationals returned home and now there are only two in the Serie A, Jurgen Kohler (Juventus) and Thomas Doll (Lazio). The exodus has been accelerated by unexpected developments in big rival leagues, notably in England and Germany. There clubs are profiting from massive injections of cash, mainly from increased sponsorship and advertising fees and, above all, from television.

Fears that saturation TV coverage will cause a slump in attendances have proved groundless.

In both countries gates are rising.

● The 17 new foreign imports are:
Couto (Portugal - Parma)
Deschamps (France - Juventus)
Sousa (Portugal - Juventus)
Miura (Japan - Genoa)
Guerrero (Colombia - Bari)
Lupu (Romania - Brescia)
Costa (Portugal - Fiorentina)
Santos (Brazil - Fiorentina)
Rincon (Colombia - Napoli)
Boghossian (France - Napoli)
Çruz (Brazil - Napoli)
Lalas (USA - Padova)
Vladoic (Croatia - Padova)
Oliseh (Nigeria - Reggiana)
Pele (Ghana - Torino)
Cyprien (France - Torino)
Angloma (France - Torino)

ARTHUR ROTMIL

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parma	5	4	1	0	11	3	13
AS Roma	5	4	1	0	10	2	13
Juventus	5	3	2	0	6	1	11
Milan	5	3	1	1	5	3	10
Internazionale	5	2	2	1	5	2	8
Lazio	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Foggia	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Fiorentina	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Sampdoria	5	2	1	2	8	3	7
Bari	5	2	1	2	3	3	7
Cremonese	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
Torino	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Cagliari	5	1	2	2	5	5	5
Genoa	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Napoli	5	1	2	2	7	10	5
Brescia	5	0	2	3	2	7	2
Padova	5	0	1	4	3	15	1
Reggiana	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — 2ND ROUND, 1ST LEG

MONZA 0
TORINO 1

UDINESE 2
FIORENTINA 2

WEEKEND

CAGLIARI 1 (Valdes 34)
MILAN 1 (Gullit 12). **Att:** 15,000.

CREMONESE 2 (Florjancic 42, 89)
NAPOLI 0. **Att:** 10,000.

FOGGIA 3 (De Vicenzo 23, Biagioni pen 27, Bresciani 39)
BRESCIA 1 (Ambrosetti 76). **Att:** 15,000.

JUVENTUS 2 (Vialli 66, Kohler 82)
BARI 0. **Att:** 44,000.

LAZIO 3 (Signori 25, 40, Boksic 36)
TORINO 0. **Att:** 47,000.

PADOVA 0
PARMA 3 (Minotti 9, Asprilla 28, 57). **Att:** 14,000.

REGGIANA 0
SAMPDORIA 2 (Mancini 85, Lombardo 90). **Att:** 14,000.

GENOA 1 (Malusci og 78)
FIORENTINA 1 (Batistuta 70). **Att:** 8,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 0
AS ROMA 1 (Festa og 77). **Att:** 42,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

BARI 1 (Tovalieri 20)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 22,000.

BRESCIA 0
INTERNAZIONALE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

FIORENTINA 3 (Carnasciali 14, Batistuta 20, 59)
CREMONESE 1 (Tentoni 17). **Att:** 32,000.

MILAN 2 (Gullit 78, 90)
LAZIO 1 (Boksic 88). **Att:** 65,000.

PARMA 2 (Baggio 30, Fernando Couto 45)
CAGLIARI 1 (Oliveira 56). **Att:** 22,000.

AS ROMA 3 (Balbo 8, 56, Fonseca 88)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 54,470.

SAMPDORIA 1 (Bertarelli 43)
FOGGIA 1 (Di Biagio 86). **Att:** 12,000.

TORINO 2 (Scienza 62, 72)
PADOVA 0. **Att:** 18,690.

NAPOLI 0
JUVENTUS 2 (Ravanelli 32, Del Piero 72). **Att:** 65,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

WEEKEND

ITALIAN CUP — 2ND ROUND, 2ND LEG

INTERNAZIONALE 0
PADOVA 1
Inter won 3-1 on agg

FOGGIA 5
COMO 0
Foggia won 7-0 on agg

ATALANTA 2
CAGLIARI 1
Agg: 2-2, Cagliari won on away goals

PERUGIA 1
PARMA 0
Parma won 4-1 on agg

VICENZA 2
SAMPDORIA 1
Sampdoria won 6-3 on agg

MODENA 1
LAZIO 4
Lazio won 9-1 on agg

PIACENZA 1
BARI 1
Piacenza won 2-1 on agg

FIDELIS ANDRIA 1
NAPOLI 1
Napoli won 4-3 on agg

GENOA 2
CESENA 0
Genoa won 3-0 on agg

BRESCIA 1
REGGIANA 1
Reggiana won 2-1 on agg

CHIEVO 1
JUVENTUS 3
Juventus won 3-1 on agg

FIORENTINA 2
UDINESE 0
Fiorentina won 4-2 on agg

TORINO 4
MONZA 2
Torino won 5-2 on agg

AS ROMA 2
FIORENZUOLA 1
AS Roma won 5-1 on agg

LECCE 2
CREMONESE 2 *(aet)*
Agg: 3-3, Cremonese won on away goals

PALERMO 0
MILAN 1 *(aet)*
Agg: 1-1, Milan won on pens

WEEKEND

CAGLIARI 2 (Firicano 5, Valdes 40)
BRESCIA 0. **Att:** 11,000.

CREMONESE 1 (Gualco 61)
MILAN 0. **Att:** 15,000.

FOGGIA 0
TORINO 2 (Rizzitelli 63, 72). **Att:** 15,000.

GENOA 3 (Nappi 8, Bortolazzi 43, Cannavaro og 59)
NAPOLI 3 (Buso 22, Policano 31, Cruz 83). **Att:** 28,000.

INTERNAZIONALE 3 (Pancev 2, Sosa pen 27, 83)
FIORENTINA 1 (Batistuta 11). **Att:** 47,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Di Livio 43)
SAMPDORIA 0. **Att:** 52,000.

PADOVA 0
BARI 2 (Gerson 72, Pedone 74). **Att:** 12,500.

REGGIANA 1 (De Agostini 53)
AS ROMA 4 (Balbo pen 17, 22, Fonseca 64, Moriero 75). **Att:** 14,500.

LAZIO 2 (Signori 26, 74)
PARMA 2 (Branca 66, 70). **Att:** 50,740.

SPAIN

BY GRAHAM TURNER

Derby ding-dong . . . Brnovic *(right)* challenges Jordi in the recent Barcelona derby. Inset: Espanol new boy Florin Raducioiu.

Budgies flying high

ON THE VERY day when your swish car decides to break down, your next-door neighbour, who earns vastly less, drives up in a new one. That's more or less the early-season taste in the mouth at Nou Camp.

Four-time champions Barcelona have been coughing, spluttering, firing on one cylinder and needing to be jump-started, while the poor relations at Espanol have been cruising along trying to glimpse their rivals in the rear-view mirror.

The "Budgies" have made a flying start in several senses. On their return to the First Division, they are nudging ever closer to their target figure of 20,000 season-ticket holders, thanks in great part to a televison campaign which features a blue-and-white budgie performing all sorts of tricks with a football.

All right, two wins and two draws from the first month of League action offer no guarantees of lasting success. But the two draws were obtained in the local derby against Barcelona and against Deportivo in La Coruna. Credit where credit is due.

There can be no doubt that Espanol also deserved more than a point from the derby at Sarria. They previously had raised eyebrows by thrashing Oviedo 4-2 and Valladolid 4-0 and a nicely heated atmosphere had already been ensured by some off-the-field jiggery-pokery.

Espanol's trio of close-season foreign signings had made Igor Korneev and fellow Russian international Dimitri Kuznetsov surplus to requirements. After bitter negotiations, Espanol gave Korneev a free transfer to get him off the wage bill, only to discover within hours that he had signed for Barca.

Johan Cruyff, who masterminded the deal which Espanol would never have contemplated, added insult to injury with some remarks on Espanol's excellent start. "It will give them a goal-difference advantage," he said, "over two of the other clubs who will end up at the foot of the table."

In the derby, Barcelona looked more like the tail-enders. Their only shot was an 87th-minute long-range effort from Hagi. Espanol dominated from start to finish and complained bitterly about two disallowed goals .

Referees Garcia Redondo spotted an alleged foul by Pochettino on Koeman before a Pacheta header and the illicit use of a hand by Raducioiu prior to a second goal. But even the TV replays were inconclusive and the Budgies were adamant that no infringements would have been spotted if the incidents had taken place at the other end.

They involved two of the three foreign signings — Bulgarian striker Velko Iotov is now the spare wheel among the imports — who have thus far performed impeccably. Mauricio Pochettino is a sweeper who hails from an Argentinian town called Murphy. Montenegran midfielder Branko Brnovic was bought from Partizan Belgrade and Florin Raducioiu was prised away from Milan.

Milan are one of a handful of Italian clubs reported to be running the rule over one of Espanol's home-grown products, a pacy, skilful 20-year-old striker by the name of Jordi Lardin.

The Budgies' future flight plans also include River Plate's Ariel Ortega, the latest Argentinian to be hailed as "the new Maradona". Jose Manuel Lara, a publisher variously described as a benefactor and meddler, put a £55,000 pot on the dressing-room table as an incentive to win the derby and is now prepared to finance the signing of Ortega.

But the push behind the Budgies' take-off has come from their manager, Jose Antonio Camacho, who is steadily gaining credibility among Spanish coaches.

Camacho, now 39, has put on a few kilos since hanging up his boots in 1989. He joined Real Madrid on March 1, 1974 and in those 15 years accumulated 10 League titles, five Cups, two UEFA Cups and 81 international caps. All this despite the cruciate ligament injury in 1981 which threatened to end his career.

Camacho was the prototype of the aggressive, superglue left-back who, as a player and as skipper, demanded the utmost from himself and from others. He was renowned — Barca fans would say notorious — for some epic battles with Cruyff which have now shifted to a new setting.

As a coach, Camacho projects the same workmanlike image and makes his views respected with some very industrial language. Real Madrid burnt him out too quickly. He joined the coaching staff only to be thrust into the hot seat alongside Alfredo Di Stefano (whose health placed limits on his contribution) when John Toshack was dismissed in 1990.

At the end of the season he left Real, crossed the capital and took over Rayo Vallecano, leading them back into the First Division and keeping them there. He joined Espanol in 1993, and looks like performing a repeat.

They came back up as Second Division champions last term and, judging by their current form, should have no problem in securing survival.

● Coaches elsewhere have not enjoyed such buoyancy. Luis Suarez set some sort of record by resigning as coach of Albacete one hour before the first League game of the season "because the public seems to be against me."

Believe it or not, Francisco Maturana survived two opening defeats without feeling, if one can pardon the expression, the weight of Jesus Gil's chopper, always poised to punish managerial misdemeanours at Atletico Madrid.

● The dug-out at Athletic Bilbao may be the next to receive a new backside. Javier Trureta took on the tough task of replacing Jupp Heynckes and the Lions have looked no match for the Budgies in their early forays.

Three results plunged the Basque fans deeper into pessimism. Firstly the opening-day home defeat by Deportivo. Then the astonishing 2-0 UEFA Cup defeat by Anorthosis of Famagusta in Cyprus. Then the manner of the 4-0 defeat by Real Madrid, to the delight of a 90,000 Bernabeu crowd anxious for revenge against the team featuring Ricardo Mendiguren, who, in a pre-season friendly, had put Argentinian Fernando Redondo out of action for two months.

The dismissal of defender Inigo Larrainzar was Irureta's easy excuse but two goals from Ivan Zamorano and one apiece from Fernando Hierro and Jorge Amavisca were, if anything, scant reward for a performance which ended with Michael Laudrup and company running rings round bemused opponents to a verbal backdrop of "ole".

The ominous fact for Irureta's future was that Bilbao looked dejected and shapeless. Irureta may not have to worry about his fate for long, despite a spirited 3-0 victory against Anorthosis in the UEFA Cup return.

'Adios Sevilla'

SPAIN's Euro '96 qualifier against Denmark on November 16 could be a poignant "adios Sevilla". Neither the Federation nor national team boss Javier Clemente sees convincing reasons for prolonging the monopoly on Big Occasions which the city's two stadia have enjoyed up to now.

Sevilla had become a sort of sacred cow in the heart of the bull country. The Spanish national team first went there on December 16, 1923 and, in the old stadium on the Avenida de la Victoria, beat Portugal 3-0.

Spain have no fixed venue for internationals nor any contractual obligation to go to Seville. But in a country where separatist undercurrents produce lukewarm support in such places as Catalonia or the Basque country, the Andalusians always have been acclaimed as the "best Number 12" the national team can have.

Recent attendances, however, have dwindled (barely 15,000 saw the historic defeat against France) and UEFA's all-seater rules have badly affected two grounds which might be termed state-of-the-art if the art were something like neo-gothic.

Betis can sell 47,000 tickets for League games at Benito Villamarin but only 27,000 for internationals. Across the city, Sevilla's Sanchez Pizjuan has 61,000 places but only 40,000 for internationals.

Since Clemente took over as national team manager, the only sell-out was for the match against Denmark which ensured qualification for USA '94. Murals and even inflatable dolls have been installed to cover bare terracing but the players complain of a lack sound from the crowd.

Temporary seating has been contemplated but costs range from £60,000 to £200,000 per game. Gate receipts have fallen below £100,000.

The national team's withdrawal may give a push to the idea of a new stadium to be shared by the two clubs, although Betis and Sevilla fans are traditionally the worst of friends.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

TENERIFE 1 (Pizzi 38)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 17,000.

BARCELONA 2 (Cruyff 8, Koeman 29 pen)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Popov 6).
Att: 80,000.

LA CORUNA 2 (Jose Ramon 14, Donato 20)
SPORTING GIJON 1 (David 59). **Att:** 25,000.

CELTA VIGO 1 (Ratkovic 33)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Guerrero 36).
Att: 13,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Zamorano 20, 50)
LOGRONES 0. **Att:** 100,000.

VALENCIA 0
SEVILLA 1 (Tevenet 75). **Att:** 45,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Kodro 59)
REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Higuera 80, Esnaider 86).
Att: 20,000.

REAL OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 10, 28)
COMPOSTELLA 2 (Christensen 38, Suarez og 57). **Att:** 14,250.

REAL VALLADOLID 0
ESPANOL 4 (Raducioiu 23, Lardin 48, 60, Arteaga 55). **Att:** 12,000.

SEVILLA 4 (Cuellar 34, 74, Aquino 38, Urena 68)
ALBACETE 1 (Dos Santos 66). **Att:** 28,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

ESPANOL 0
BARCELONA 0. **Att:** 35,000.

VALENCIA 2 (Poyatos 5, Salenko 57)
TENERIFE 1 (Juanele 90). **Att:** 46,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 2 (Kiko 32, Caminero 48)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Picabea 44). **Att:** 40,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Esnaider 20, 26)
REAL OVIEDO 1 (Carlos 69). ATT: 22,000.

COMPOSTELA 1 (Ohen 32)
REAL VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 9,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Villabona 24)
LA CORUNA 2 (Julio Salinas 45, Manjarin 85).
Att: 20,000.

SPORTING GIJON 0
CELTA VIGO 0. **Att:** 16,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Garitano 24)
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 35,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Oscar 80)
REAL MADRID 1 (Sanchis 77). **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

WEEKEND

REAL MADRID 4 (Zamorano 15, 39, Hierro 42, Amavisca 50)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 0. **Att:** 95,000.

TENERIFE 0
SEVILLA 0. **Att:** 17,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 0
VALENCIA 2 (Salenko pen 24, Mijatovic 66).
Att: 19,000.

REAL OVIEDO 1 (Armando 74)
ATLETICO MADRID 0. **Att:** 11,500.

REAL VALLADOLID 2 (Alberto 53)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 13,000.

BARCELONA 4 (Stoichkov 21, 58, Hagi 76, 86)
COMPOSTELLA 0. **Att:** 85,000.

LA CORUNA 1 (Bebeto 59)
ESPANOL 1 (Arteaga 45). **Att:** 22,000.

CELTA VIGO 2 (Ratkovic 83, Gudelj)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Popov 88).
Att: 18,000.

REAL BETIS 5 (Aquino 17, Cuellar 59, 69, 86, Kowalczyk 81)
SPORTING GIJON 0. **Att:** 35,000.

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Coruna	5	4	1	0	8	3	9
Valencia	5	4	0	1	9	4	8
Real Madrid	5	3	1	1	11	3	7
Espanol	5	2	3	0	9	3	7
Real Zaragoza	5	3	1	1	8	7	7
Real Betis	5	2	2	1	9	2	6
Tenerife	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Celta	5	1	4	0	4	3	6
Barcelona	5	2	1	2	8	5	5
Albacete	5	1	3	1	6	7	5
Sevilla	5	2	1	2	3	6	5
Athletic Bilbao	5	2	1	2	3	7	5
Sporting Gijon	5	2	1	2	4	8	5
Atletico Madrid	5	2	0	3	10	7	4
Real Oviedo	5	1	1	3	6	9	3
Compostela	5	1	1	3	3	9	3
Real Valladolid	5	1	1	3	2	11	3
Santander	5	0	2	3	3	6	2
Logrones	5	0	2	3	1	5	2
Real Sociedad	5	1	0	4	4	9	2

Red faces at Real

REGULAR readers will not need Shock, Horror! headlines to remind them that Real Madrid have long since been deeply immersed in financial problems caused in part by the £7million invested in modernising the Bernabeu stadium.

The official audit conducted by Price Waterhouse now confirms that the red numbers currently add up to £55million.

Other newspapers were quick to latch on to the figures published by *El Pais* and Real promptly threatened legal action against a Barcelona daily, *Sport*, for reproducing the news under a banner headline proclaiming the club's bankruptcy.

Real felt the need to call a conference to explain that the coffers are not as bare as they might appear. Treasurer Mauricio Toledano, polishing up the old theory that statistics can be used to prove anything, concluded his address by proclaiming Real "the richest club in Spain", a thesis which had the Barcelona president, Josep Lluis Nunez, laughing all the way to a much healthier bank balance.

Anyway, now we know. The richest club in Spain, £55million in the red. Or not quite, insists Toledano. Real are owed £13million, which brings the real debt down to a mere £42million.

The bad news is that the club have to find £35million on a short-term basis and the auditors conclude by advising Real to seek urgent income from alternative sources.

President Ramon Mendoza did not appear at the conference nor at a meeting in Barcelona on the following day to discuss the distribution of TV income. He will not, however, be able to elude some Spanish Inquisition stuff from his opponents at the AGM, scheduled for October 23.

Mendoza, often let down by his impromptu comments, chose Catalonia's National Day to make some stinging criticisms of Barcelona, the Catalans and other delicate ground where politicians indulge in pussy-footing.

Back on the cash front, one of his major headaches is that Real, like many Spanish clubs, run a basketball team who contribute barrowloads of silverware to the trophy room but at a price way above the going rate. Basketball took £3.5million out of Real's economy last year. Mendoza now proposes to hive off the basketball section, but faces a lack of would-be buyers and internal opposition reluctant to part with a prestigious part of the club's history.

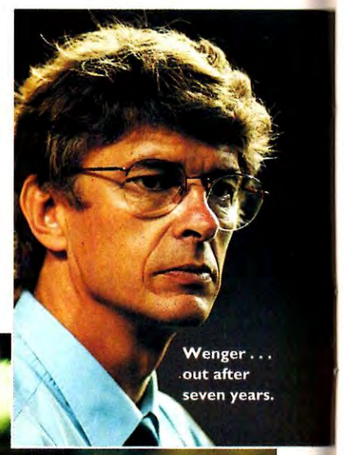
Ramon Mendoza mounting problem

At least the paperwork confirms that Real finished last season with a touch of black — an operating profit of £75,000 compared with a loss of £9million (the club disagreed with the audit and claimed the correct figure was £900,000) on the previous exercise. Even so, Real were at one stage £8million behind on wage and bonus payments to their players.

FRANCE

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Wenger pays the price



Wenger . . . out after seven years.

Scifo . . . at odds with Djorkaeff.

AFTER seven years and more at Monaco, Arsene Wenger has gone. Just a matter of months after he had announced that this was the best Monaco team he had ever had, still stronger than the one including Glenn Hoddle.

Rumours were that Hoddle was the man Monaco would have liked to replace Wenger as coach, only for him to stay loyal to Chelsea.

Wenger, who won honours galore for Monaco, was advised during the summer by Henri Biancheri, the so-called technical director, to go to Bayern Munich, because a change might do him good.

And do Monaco good?

When Wenger refused and said he wanted to see out his contract, running to 1995, Biancheri was delighted, he says. Which prompts one to ask why he made the suggestion in the first place.

Monaco had a dreadful start to the season, though a crop of injuries played a large part. The casualties included the gifted young Brazilian centre-forward, Anderson, expensively acquired from Marseille.

Enzo Scifo has been injured frequently, and it seemed that his feud last season with French international attacker Djorkaeff, who had wanted to join Paris Saint Germain during the close season, had not been laid to rest.

By a thundering irony, the team lost 1-0 to a last-minute goal at Le Havre, where new goalkeeper Fabien Piveteau showed, not for the first time, that he isn't by any means the promising keeper they signed from . . .Le Havre.

Another seemingly unsettled player is defender Lilian Thuram, deeply disappointed that his transfer to Fiorentina did not go through.

The loyal defender Emmanuel Petit had to drop out early on with a pulled muscle, but returned to give his usual solid performance, back in the centre of the defence after "exile" on the left, and coming to terms with his brother's death.

"Our situation is purely down to bad luck," he insisted, just before Wenger got the sack. But he deplored the public outburst by Jean Louis Campora, the club president, who raged: "I cannot accept the way we've played for several games. The players and the manager have to rediscover certain qualities. There's much work to be done." Petit said: "I was surprised to read such statements. We'd have liked them to be addressed to us in private. You don't solve these problems by firing arrows in the papers."

PSG continue to look better in Europe than they do domestically. Their heartening 2-0 home win over Bayern Munich was followed the next Sunday by 2-0 defeat at the boots of Lyon, the second goal cleverly headed by Stephane Paille, still capable of surprises.

"I want to win the European Cup," says the voluble and volatile new PSG manager, Luis Fernandez. Who doesn't? "We can win it, that's sure.

"I'm pleased Paris is an outsider. That means we can spring surprises. It's always harder to be favourites. We've got nothing to lose, six terrific matches to play. Then we shall see what fate has in store for us."

Certainly this team play a more open, attacking game than under poor Artur Jorge, who has had to undergo that alarming operation on his brain. Fernandez, for instance, was delighted with the goal scored by his defender, Patrick Colleter, against Metz.

"It's what I repeat to the players. Take risks. One day or another, you will be rewarded. When I see Patrick scoring, I know I'm on the right road. He had just run 60 metres to recover the ball. That stands for enthusiasm."

Alas, on the following weekend Colleter's ridiculous back-pass gave away the first goal at Lyon. That's football, you might well say. The defeat gave Nantes the chance to pull further away from the Parisians.

"For the moment," admits Fernandez, who is known not to like them and their methods, "Nantes are the favourites."

But even he would have to admit that some of the best football in our championship so far has been exuberantly played by Nantes. Yes, they threw away a three-goal lead at Martigues, but came back at once with another three goals the following weekend, this time with no reply from the previously high-flying St Etienne.

Three goals had gone in by half-time and there could well have been double that by the end, with Patrice Loko yet again running wild. A superb technical player, both maker and scorer of goals.

Suadeau, the veteran manager of Nantes, dropped goalkeeper Marraud, who had a shocking game at Martigues replacing him with Casagrande. The new keeper had little to do, but made one very good save "cold" from a close-in header by Passi, to justify his inclusion.

Martigues continue to surprise. They are especially pleased with the man who got two of those goals against Nantes, the 26-year-old Algerian from Oran, Ali Bernarbia.

Djorkaeff . . . at odds with Scifo.

Cascarino cashes in

Cascarino . . . goal after goal after goal for Marseille.

TONY CASCARINO must be the happiest player in France just now, banging and heading in goal after goal for Marseille.

He collected the remarkable total of 15 in his first 11 League games for the club, who will surely come right back to Division One after their forcible relegation.

Marseille, he says, are down for only one season, and he means to play on "for years and years".

Not surprisingly, in view of his splendid form despite leaving Chelsea on a free transfer after a brief and ineffective appearance as a substitute in last season's FA Cup Final defeat by Manchester United.

Marseille won their first three home games 5-0, 5-1 and 5-0, with Cascarino scoring a hat-trick in two of the matches. He then followed by scoring twice in a 3-0 victory over Olympiakos in the second leg of the UEFA Cup tie, giving Marseille a 5-1 aggregate win.

Although only three players remain from the squad who won the Champions Cup in 1993, Marseille could have a good run this time.

The off-field problems have not lessened the club's fanatical support. Nearly 40,000 fans were at Stade Velodrome to see the Olympiakos match, and many of them were dancing in the streets afterwards.

Victory meant that a French Second Division club had reached the second round of a European competition for the first time since St Etienne in the 1962 Cup-winners Cup.

The part played by Cascarino cannot be over-estimated. Even at 32, he is revelling in his new-found form and looking good for many more goals.

His career total from 13 seasons of scrapping against uncompromising defenders is now around 200, and obviously he has not lost the knack.

He might well be recalled to the Republic of Ireland's squad for future European Championship qualifying games: his resurgence will be hard to ignore if he can keep it up now that other French clubs are getting wise to him.

He had little opportunity in the World Cup earlier this year, playing only the last 17 minutes of the Republic's fourth and last game — the 2-0 defeat by Holland in the second round.

There is no doubt that Cascarino has adjusted to life in France perfectly well. "I was amazed when a major club such as Marseille asked after me," he says. "It was too good a chance to miss.

"I have an excellent contract, my wife loves the lifestyle here, and I'm going to make the most of it while it lasts."

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	11	7	4	0	24	13	25
Lyon	11	6	4	1	16	10	22
Cannes	11	6	2	3	16	8	20
Strasbourg	11	5	3	3	17	10	18
Bordeaux	11	5	3	3	16	13	18
Paris SG	11	5	3	3	11	9	18
Martigues	11	5	2	4	17	16	18
Auxerre	11	4	5	2	17	10	17
Lens	11	4	5	2	15	10	17
St Etienne	11	4	4	3	18	12	16
Rennes	11	4	4	3	12	14	16
Nice	11	3	4	4	12	13	13
Monaco	11	3	3	5	7	10	12
Le Havre	11	2	5	4	9	14	11
Bastia	11	3	2	6	11	18	11
Sochaux	11	3	2	6	11	18	11
Metz	11	2	4	5	6	12	10
Lille	11	3	4	4	9	16	10
Montpellier	11	1	5	5	9	17	8
Caen	11	1	1	10	5	17	4

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4

WEEKEND

CANNES 3 (Kozniku 20, Delmotte 52, Durix pen 59)
AUXERRE 1 (Silvestre 47). **Att:** 10,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Caveglia 19)
BORDEAUX 1 (Valdeiir 11). **Att:** 7,700.

LENS 0
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 38,000.

SOCHAUX 2 (Vos pen 49, A. Blanc 73)
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 4,000.

STRASBOURG 5 (Leboeuf pen 10, Sauzee 29, 50 pen, Gravelaine 32, 40)
MARTIGUES 0. **Att:** 16,953.

NANTES 2 (N'Doram 7, Ouedec 86)
RENNES 0. **Att:** 30,000.

LYON 1 (Gava 5)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 20,000.

MONACO 0
NICE 2 (Sandjak 35, Mangione 63). **Att:** 10,000.

METZ 1 (Zitelli 16)
LILLE 1 (Farina 85). **Att:** 8,000.

BASTIA 1 (Drobnjak pen 75)
PARIS SG 2 (Ginola 22, 55). **Att:** 8,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

RENNES 3 (Pollet og 20, Gourvennec 35, Grassi pen 89)
CANNES 1 (Denis og 56). **Att:** 9,000.

MONTPELLIER 1 (Carotti 10)
STRASBOURG 1 (Gravelaine 54). **Att:** 10,000.

MARTIGUES 3 (Tholot 65, Benarbia 67, 81)
NANTES 3 (Ouedec 8, Loko 37, 52). **Att:** 7,000.

ST ETIENNE 4 (Blanc pen 46, Wohlfarth 51, 83, Camara 89)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 24,000.

BORDEAUX 1 (Bancarel 86)
LENS 2 (Tiehi 26, Laigle 45). **Att:** 15,000.

NICE 1 (Sandiak 88)
BASTIA 2 (Drobnjak 26, Laurent 37). **Att:** 9,000.

LE HAVRE 1 (Daury 90)
MONACO 0. **Att:** 8,000.

PARIS SG 3 (Colleter 6, Ricardo Gomes 30, Rai 89)
METZ 0. **Att:** 24,000.

LILLE 1 (Garcia pen 20)
LYON 4 (Leclercq og 5, Maurice 65, Paille 71, Debbah 87). **Att:** 6,500.

CAEN 1 (Simba 26)
AUXERRE 5 (Saib 7, Lamouchi 12, Laslandes 20, 29, Martins 52). **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

LENS 1 (Tiehi 89)
LE HAVRE 1 (Daury 39). **Att:** 22,363.

SOCHAUX 1 (Vos 87)
BORDEAUX 4 (Valdeir 14, 40, 69, Dugarry 59). **Att:** 6,000.

STRASBOURG 1 (Bouafia 35)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 18,254.

NANTES 3 (Loko 2, Ouedec 4, Makelele 17)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 30,000.

MONACO 0
RENNES 0. **Att:** 3,000.

METZ 0
NICE 0. **Att:** 8,500.

CANNES 0
MARTIGUES 1 (Bertilsson 80). **Att:** 6,000.

BASTIA 1 (Casanova 46)
MONTPELLIER 1 (Der Zakarian 45). **Att:** 7,000.

AUXERRE 2 (Lamouchi 10, Verlaat pen 36)
LILLE 0. **Att:** 7,000.

LYON 2 (Debbah 55, Paille 90)
PARIS SG 0. **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

WEEKEND

MONTPELLIER 2 (Sanchez 7, Divert 57 pen)
MONACO 2 (Madar 29, 78). **Att:** 7,280.

MARTIGUES 5 (Dubois 20, Bertilsson 36, Tholot 41, 52, 73)
BASTIA 2 (Drobnjak 55, Laurent 67). **Att:** 4,500.

ST ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfarth 86)
LYON 1 (Gava 49). **Att:** 35,722.

RENNES 1 (Andre 26)
METZ 2 (Pires 50, Lang 55). **Att:** 9,771.

BORDEAUX 2 (Dugarry 1, Valdeir 22)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 12,000.

NICE 1 (Ipoua 69)
NANTES 3 (Pignol 20, Loko 39, N'Doram 66). **Att:** 10,811.

LE HAVRE 2 (Caveglia 16, Daury 26)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 7,822.

PARIS SG 1 (Weah 77)
AUXERRE 1 (Lamouchi 68). **Att:** 33,644.

LENS 0
CANNES 2 (Priou 36, 71). **Att:** 23,899.

LILLE 1 (Duncker 27)
CAEN 1 (Simba 78). At: 6,978.

GERMANY

Trap in trouble

ARTHUR ROTMIL reports on the mounting problems of Bayern Munich's Italian boss

WERDER BREMEN were the early leaders in the Bundesliga and after five rounds were the only side to remain unbeaten.

Championship favourites Bayern Munich continue to puzzle both fans and pundits with their unpredictable form. The 5-1 defeat by unfancied Freiburg, especially, provoked many sarcastic headlines and much soul-searching in Munich.

The players who earn the highest wages in the Bundesliga are being blamed for the poor results. In particular Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin and Swiss international Alain Sutter have yet to be fully integrated into the team. Papin, who missed several matches following a cartilage operation, is a shadow of the striker who once terrorised defences all over Europe.

Bayern's new tactics — pressing in midfield and waiting for counter attacks — are only partly to blame, but so far team manager Giovanni Trapattoni has escaped open criticism. Too many experts still have enormous respect for the successful Italian, but if performances don't improve, he could be under pressure.

The discussions over the role of Lothar Matthaus continue. The "libero" declared that he doesn't want to move up to midfield, but that is where Bayern lack a schemer to spark and ignite attacking ideas.

Just as erratic were Bayer Leverkusen, who sprang the biggest surprise by signing former international striker Rudi Voller. The 34-year-old, who ended his international career at the World Cup, quit Olympique Marseille and returned to the Bundesliga after seven years abroad and celebrated with a sensational comeback. Coming on as substitute in the 73rd minute he scored in the last minute of the 4-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

● The DFB-Cup continues to throw up surprises at the expense of the most famous clubs. After the first round demise of the holders Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich at the hands of amateurs, Frankfurt fell to Second Division Wolfsburg on penalties, Hamburger SV to Schalke and Leverkusen against bottom club, the newly-promoted 1860 Munich on penalties, all in the second round. Meanwhile, the amateurs of Vestenbergsgreutch, first round conquerors of Bayern Munch, have progressed the third round.

Jurgen Klinsmann . . . poll position.

● Jurgen Klinsmann has been voted Germany's "Footballer of the Year" is, for the second time in his career. In the poll of German sports journalists, held by *Kicker* magazine, Klinsmann received a massive 211 votes. Second was Matthaus with 117, followed by Matthias Sammer on 99.

Klinsmann was quite overwhelmed: "As I have been playing abroad for the past five years, I never expected this honour in my wildest dreams." The decisive factor were his displays in the World Cup, where he was rated the best German player.

● In the wake of the disappointing World Cup, there have been the usual inquests, recriminations and breast-beating. Various arguments have been put forward and blame attached even to the organisation of the Bundesliga.

National team coach Berti Vogts, who was persuaded to carry on after the American fiasco, has come out strongly against the influx of foreigners, many of whom occupy key positions in the club sides and prevent young German talents to blossom. Vogts certainly has a point. No fewer than 93 foreign imports from 40 different countries are currently on the books of the 18 First Division clubs.

The effects are already felt in the Under-21 side which failed to qualify for the Olympic Games in 1992 and for the European Championship finals in 1994. It appears that nine players from that team of hopefuls did not perform this season in their club sides.

That is why Vogts, contrary to his announcement, was unable to launch the rejuvenation of the national team. In the season's first international, a friendly against Russia in Moscow, the two youngest players were 25, while six were 29 or over.

That the Germans won 1-0, thanks to a goal by 31-year-old Stefan Kuntz, was more due to the opposition fielding for the first time in a year the six rebels who refused to play under previous manager Pavel Sadyrin.

Vogts admitted: "We can build on this success, but there is no reason for euphoria."

Lothar Matthaus . . . happy at the back.

Rudi Voller . . . back in the Bundesliga.

Berti Vogts . . . staying calm.

SWITZERLAND

Fresh legs for Grasshopper

THE Grasshopper Club of Zurich, the biggest and most successful outfit in Switzerland, are showing the way and not only because of their position at the top of the table.

Thanks to the skills of their back-up staff, especially general manager Erich Vogel, they have introduced a unique system of discovering, employing and training youngsters.

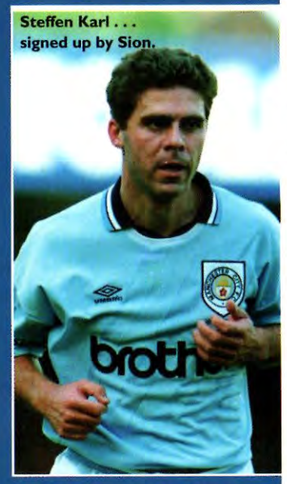
Every year the "Hoppers" amaze the soccer fraternity with their neverending supply of rookies. Out of the current 18-man squad, 10 players joined the club while under 21 years of age. Last season all except goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuhler played in the first team. And only those budding talents are signed up who have a chance of a first team place. If they don't make the grade they are returned without a fee to their old club.

This trend is now being followed by others and there have never been so many players aged between 19 and 22 active in the Swiss First Division. A new generation is being groomed to make its mark on Swiss football already buoyant by the success of the national side in the World Cup finals.

In the league championship the big surprise is the poor form of last year's runners-up Sion. The signing of two Germans, Marcus Marin and Steffen Karl (he didn't make the grade at Manchester City) has not brought the expected rewards, while the departure of international defender Marc Hottiger to Newcastle has weakened the back four.

Manager Umberto Barberis, who predicted that his team would win the championship, may well have to revise his ambitious assessment. By contrast Xamax Neuchatel have started strongly. Boss Gilbert Gress is banking on the much-travelled Hungarian playmaker Lajos Detari, who has regained top form.

ARTHUR ROTMIL


Steffen Karl . . . signed up by Sion.

AUSTRIA

Early lead for Sturm Graz

THE demise of the surprise league leaders Sturm Graz has been predicted for some time, but after seven rounds the provincials were still ahead of another less-fancied team, the crisis-torn Rapid Vienna.

Like their biggest rivals Austria Vienna, Rapid started poorly and both clubs were still looking for their first win after three matches. Little wonder that their traditional "derby" attracted only 9,000 spectators.

In trouble too were Tirol (formerly Wacker) from Innsbruck, whose 33-year-old treasurer, Klaus Mair, was arrested on suspicion of embezzlement. The former banker allegedly admitted stealing some £12million — part of it apparently channelled to the club — which could have dire consequences for the Tyroleans. Several players have allegedly been paid under the counter.

On the playing field, the team haven't found their true form, with the two expensive German stars Manni Schwabl and Sammy Sane off-colour. Against ten-man Graz they could only manage a goalless draw.

After a series of five draws Austria Vienna celebrated their first victory, remarkably against champions Austria Salzburg, the first Austrian team to play in the Champions League.

An outstanding performance by the controversial international Andreas Ogris, who had earlier been dropped and suspended by manager Egon Coordes, helped the Austrianer from Vienna to maximum points. But in the next match they spoiled that good work, losing a two-goal lead against promoted Linz and having two players sent off. The final scoreline,2-2, was their sixth draw in seven games.

The national team, who lost at home in Klagenfurt 3-0 to Russia, were again the target of much criticism. Team manager Herbert Prohaska offered his resignation, but FA president Beppo Mauthart refused to accept it.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

Herbert Prohaska . . . staying put.

RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

WEEKEND

DUISBURG 0
BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Nerkubger 8, Witeczek 26, Helmer 42). **Att:** 28,000.

FREIBURG 1 (Zeyer 25)
WERDER BREMEN 3 (Bode 8, Basler 45, Hobsch 46). **Att:** 17,500.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Dahlin 46, Effenberg 89)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 0. **Att:** 20,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Sforza 5, 75, Kadlec 36)
VfB STUTTGART 2 (Strunz 40, Bobic 77). **Att:** 36,357.

1860 MUNICH 0
SCHALKE 1 (Dikhtiar 10). **Att:** 35,000.

HAMBURG 3 (Schnoor 57, Albertz 74, Letchkov 88)
KARLSRUHE 1 (Fink 2). **Att:** 25,323.

BOCHUM 1 (Aden 64)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Kirsten 43, 77, Voller 63). **Att:** 22,764.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 4 (Yeboah pen 44, Binz 49, Franck og 54, Okocha 88)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Chapuisat 34). **Att:** 47,500.

KOLN 2 (Polster 61, Heldt 76)
BAYER UERDINGEN 0. **Att:** 21,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

GERMAN CUP — 2ND ROUND

WATTENSCHEID 1
KOLN 3

SCHALKE 3
HAMBURG 2

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1
BAYER UERDINGEN 0

SSV ULM 1846 0
VFB STUTTGART 1

STUTTGARTER KICKERS 4
FSV SALMROHR 0

TSV VESTENBERGSGREUTH 5
FC HOMBURG 1

TENNIS BORUSSIA BERLIN 3
ST PAULI 4

KICKERS OFFENBACH 0
BORUSSIA MG 1

HANNOVER 96 0
SAARBRUCKEN 2

FORTUNA KOLN 2
VFL BOCHUM 1 *(aet)*

1860 MUNICH 1
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 *(aet)*
1860 Munchen won on pens

ENTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
VFL WOLFSBURG 0 *(aet)*
VfL Wolfsburg won on pens

KARLSRUHE 1
SV WALDHOF MANNHEIM 1 *(aet)*
Karlsruhe won on pens

BAYERN MUNICH AMATEURS 2
CHEMNITZ 2 *(aet)*
Bayern Munich Amateurs won on pens

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

MIDWEEK

GERMAN CUP — 2ND ROUND

MSV DUISBURG 0
FSV MAINZ 05 2

WEEKEND

KARLSRUHE 3 (Bilic 15, Nowotny 20, Hassler 79)
1860 MUNICH 1 (Trares 49). **Att:** 30,000.

VFL BOCHUM 1 (Wosz 57)
FREIBURG 3 (Cardoso 4, U. Spies 34, 90). **Att:** 14,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 4 (Kern 45, Fuchs 60, 74, M. Spies 62)
DUISBERG 2 (Boger 34, Osthoff 83). **Att:** 12,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Matthaus 84 pen)
HAMBURG 1 (Breitenreiter 16). **Att:** 60,000.

SCHALKE 3 (Anderbrugge 15, 75 pen, Mulder 66)
KOLN 1 (Hauptmann 24). **Att:** 39,570.

BAYER UERDINGEN 1 (F. Weber 79)
KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Kuka 39, Marschall 84, Anders 88). **Att:** 8,000.

VfB STUTTGART 4 (Bobic 18, Dickhaut og 25, Covic 81, 86)
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Dickhaut 40). **Att:** 30,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 2 (Kirsten 40, Worns 75)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Reuter 25, Chapuisat 60). **Att:** 28,000.

WERDER BREMEN 1 (Hobsch 27)
BORUSSIA MG 0. **Att:** 24,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

GERMAN CUP — 3RD ROUND

KAISERSLAUTERN 3
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 6 *(aet)*

WEEKEND

1860 MUNICH 1 (Pacult 79 pen)
BAYERN MUNICH 3 (Schupp 31, Ziege 55, Zickler 87). **Att:** 62,000.

BORUSSIA MG 7 (Effenberg 16, 85, Kastenmaier 24, Herrlich 27, Wynhoff 39, Salou 51, M. Schneider 78)
BOCHUM 1 (Heinemann pen 68). **Att:** 26,000.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
BAYER UERDINGEN 3 (Feldhoff 14, 18, Bittengel 65). **Att:** 16,000.

KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Funkel 21, Sforza 72, Wagner 88)
SCHALKE 1 (A. Muller). **Att:** 38,900.

HAMBURG 2 (Albertz 51, Baron 88)
DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Dittgen 54). **Att:** 23,266.

DUISBURG 0
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Basler 38, Rufer pen 87). **Att:** 21,000.

FREIBURG 1 (R. Cardoso 43)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (S. Muller og 27). **Att:** 17,500.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 5 (Moller 4, 51, Chapuisat 11, 14, Riedle 78)
VfB STUTTGART 0. **Att:** 42,800.

KOLN 3 (Polster 6, pen 9, Labbadia 65)
KARLSRUHE 4 (Bilic 29, Polster og 37, Kirjakov 53, Bonan 89). **Att:** 29,000.

LEADING SCORERS

1 .....**CHAPUISAT** (Bor. Dortmund).....6
2 .....**BASLER** (Werder Bremen).....5
.....**BOBIC** (VfB Stuttgart).....5
.....**R. CARDOSO** (SC Freiburg).....5
.....**MOLLER** (Borussia Dortmund).....5

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	6	5	1	0	13	4	11
Bor. Dortmund	6	4	1	1	20	8	9
Karlsruhe	6	4	1	1	16	10	9
Bayern Munich	6	4	1	1	14	8	9
Kaiserslautern	6	4	1	1	12	7	9
Hamburg	6	3	2	1	8	5	8
Freiburg	6	3	1	2	13	9	7
VfB Stuttgart	6	3	1	2	12	12	7
Leverkusen	6	2	2	2	12	8	6
Borussia MG	6	2	2	2	12	8	6
Schalke	6	2	2	2	8	8	6
Uerdingen	6	1	3	2	6	7	5
Koln	6	1	2	3	9	15	4
Ein. Frankfurt	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
Dyn. Dresden	6	1	1	4	7	12	3
Duisburg	6	0	2	4	6	16	2
VfL Bochum	6	1	0	5	6	19	2
1860 Munich	6	0	1	5	3	14	1

HOLLAND

Teenage sensations

AFTER Ajax's 2-0 defeat of Milan in the Champions League manager Louis Van Gaal may well feel he owes PSV coach Aad de Mos a thank-you drink for saving Ajax a few million guilders.

When PSV snapped up Ronaldo, the young Brazilian forward Van Gaal wanted for Ajax, the Ajax boss turned to teenage striker Patrick Kluivert. It is early days yet, but the signs are that Ronaldo and Kluivert will be fighting it out at the top of the Dutch scorers list.

Just about everything is pointing to Ajax. A bunch of soccer "kids" have grown up. Who better to help them on the training ground than ex-schoolteacher Van Gaal? And who better to carry on the lessons on the pitch than two international veterans — skipper Danny Blind and Frank Rijkaard?

They organise things at the back. With considerable help from Edwin Van der Sar, now Holland's No. 2 'keeper, Ajax appear to have sorted out their problems in defence. "Total football" is still their motto, and Blind and Rijkaard are often involved in attacking movements which involve a combination of direct approach and wing build-ups in which Marc Overmars is a key player.

People are asking whether the old Ajax are back.

However, over in Rotterdam things are not so good with Ajax's great rivals, Feyenoord.

Lack of consistency has been one of their main problems. Even internationals Rob Witschge and Gaston Taument were dropped for one game.

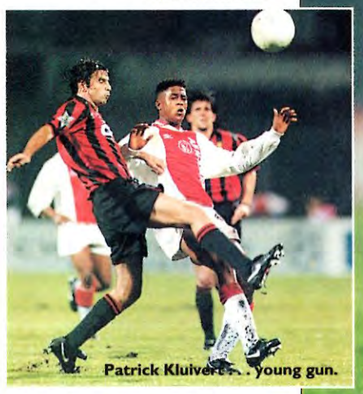
That triggered rumours that the players were not happy with coach Wim Van Hanegem. At an unusual press conference chairman Jorien Van den Herik pleaded with journalists to stop the whispering campaign. He even handed general manager Thijs Libregts a verbal "yellow card" for talking to the press about the first team.

PSV also have problems, but of a different kind. Ronaldo has settled in well and is having no problems with Dutch football, and PSV are turning on some fine, attractive football.

But in the summer the club released defender Berry Van Aerle, Jerry De Jong, Erwin Koeman and Adri Van Tiggelen. So while Ronaldo and company are doing well in attack, there have been occasions when PSV have looked shaky at the back.

ERIC NICHOLLS

Frank Rijkaard . . . old hand.



Patrick Kluivert . . . young gun.

BELGIUM

Get ready for Euro 2000!

IT'S official: Belgium and Holland, "the Low Countries", will be the co-organisers of Euro 2000, the European Championship Finals.

It was about the only good news for Belgium in a month packed with misery.

Not only did the Belgium national side perform badly in the game against Armenia, but Anderlecht only got one point from the first two games in the Champions League and all three Belgium clubs were kicked out of the UEFA Cup. The only good news came from Standard Liege, League leaders after six games and Club Brugge, who comfortably reached the next round of the Cup-winners Cup.

"Club Brugge will be the new Champions", said Lommel coach Jos Heyligen after his team lost 5-0 to Club Brugge.

"To have a chance against them you need three things: good organisation in your own team, some luck with the few chances you get yourself during the game and an off-day off the Brugge team."

Against Lommel, Club Brugge clearly did not miss Daniel Amokachi. The five goals were by five different players: Eijkelkamp, Staelens, Vermant, Van der Heyden and Verhayen.

After the 5-0 win Club Brugge found themselves in third place in the League, a position shared with Lierse, and Antwerp, the team so convincingly outplayed twice by Newcastle United, in the UEFA Cup.

Champions Anderlecht lost their first game of the season 2-1 against Cercle Bruges. This defeat was followed by a 2-2 draw at home to Germinal Ekeren and then four straight wins in a row.

After six games Anderlecht trailed Standard Liege, whose tight defence has only conceded three goals.

Standard's best performance to date was away at Charleroi. Australian international Aurelio Vidmar was the hero of the night, scoring three goals after 52, 72 and 86 minutes.

This game cam only two days after the very disappointing international against Armenia, a game Belgium won only 2-0 and made little impression.

The current bad atmosphere in the national squad is a hangover from the World Cup. Belgium officials made it quite clear that in their opinion some internationals did not behave professionally during the World Cup and national coach Paul Van Himst seems to agree. The players for their part still have problems with the way the Belgium FA organised the World Cup.

J H DE BRUIJN

Aurelio Vidmar . . . hat-trick hero.

IRELAND

Jack to hit the road

JACK CHARLTON will probably resign as Republic of Ireland manager when their interest in the 1996 European Championship comes to a end.

That could be in November 1995 or after the Finals in England in 1996. Jack says he will quit when Irish people call him Mr Charlton instead of Jack and when he has to pay for his own pint of Guinness!

For the present Irish fans can call him Doctor Jack as Charlton was conferred with a Doctor of Science degree from Limerick University. Jack is already an OBE, Freeman of Dublin and an Honorary Irishman.

The only manager who has publicly said that he would interested in taking over the Irish job is Wimbledon's Joe Kinnear. A former Irish international, Kinnear has previously managed the Nepal national team and he says he would be willing to work with Jack before he quits. But where would that leave Maurice Setters, Jack's assistant? Apart from Kinnear, other former Irish internationals in with a shout will be Liam Brady, Mick McCarthy and Frank Stapleton. Or maybe the FAI will continue with their "foreign" policy. After all, they found a winner in an out-of-work English manager in 1986. Could it happen again?

Meanwhile the FAI may sell their valuable headquarters in Merrion Square, Dublin and move to Phoenix Park, where an American company has ambitious plans to build a stadium, hotel and casino. However, another consortium already has planning permission to build a stadium in Clondalkin in South Dublin, while the FAI are contracted to the Irish Rugby Union for the use of Lansdowne Road until the year 2004.

A continuation of the ceasefire in Northern Ireland could mean that the Irish Football Association will offer tickets to Republic of Ireland fans for the European Championship game between the "Two Irelands" at Windsor Park on November 16.

Both Associations went for an early date this time following the tension that surrounded the last game in the World Cup qualifying campaign at the same venue last November. But with long-term peace looking more likely with each passing day, there is no reason why the respective Associations cannot allocate tickets to opposing fans. The next game for each team in the group will be the return leg at Lansdowne Road next March.

A downside, if one could call it that, of the peace moves could be crowd-pullers Derry City leaving the National League of Ireland for the Irish League.

Derry were members of the Irish League until 1972 when a bus-burning incident outside their ground meant other Irish League clubs would not travel to the Brandywell. After many years of unsuccessfully re-applying for membership of the Irish League, Derry turned to Dublin and have been one of the big attractions in the League of Ireland since 1985. A move back North would mean much shorter trips to away games for the Derry players.

Northern Ireland do not field an Under-21 team, so the Republic will play England in the European Under-21 competition at St James' Park, Newcastle, on November 15. Managers in the National League of Ireland were annoyed when none of their players were included in the Under-21 squad for the game against Latvia in September.

So Jack Charlton has been invited to watch the National League team when they play the Welsh League in Porthmadog on October 26. Bohemians manager Turlough O'Connor will be in charge of the National League side.

Lawrie Sanchez, a former member of the Wimbledon "Crazy Gang" is the new manager of Sligo Rovers. He replaces Willie McStay, who has returned to Scotland to take up a coaching job with Celtic.

35-year-old Sanchez, who won three caps for Northern Ireland, will play for Sligo, but he will have to do without dual star Ger Houlahan, who will concentrate on Gaelic Football with his native Armagh this season.

SEAN CREEDON

Charlton . . . set to jack it in in '96.

PORTUGAL

Transfer tangle threatens chaos

PORTUGUESE soccer has been rocked by a transfer market controversy that threatens to nullify some of this season's First Division results and spill over into European competitions.

Lisbon sports paper *Record* recently published a stinging attack by the Portuguese Soccer Federation's Justice Council on Federation president Vitor Vasques.

In a strongly-worded statement, the Council ruled that Vasques deliberately and blatantly misled the Federation board when he lifted the transfer embargo on First Division club and UEFA Cup candidates Maritimo.

The embargo was imposed because Maritimo had not paid Vitoria Guimaraes for a player they signed earlier this year. Since Vasques ordered the embargo to be lifted, without the outstanding sum being paid, Maritimo have wrongly signed 16 players, the Council said.

Reacting to the ruling, Sporting Lisbon pointed out that Vasques had also ordered the transfer embargo on Boavista to be lifted under similar circumstances.

Sporting called for their 2-2 draw against Boavista to be declared null and void because their opponents had signed Romanian Ion Timofte, who scored both his team's goals against Sporting, after Vasques personally ordered an end to the embargo.

Portuguese Soccer League president Valentim Loureiro described the situation as chaotic and predicted a protracted legal battle.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

DENMARK

Hooligans strike

DANISH soccer has been scandalised by its first outbreak of soccer hooliganism. For so long Denmark had been the home of the happy soccer fans, known as the "Roligans" for their peaceful behaviour and outlook.

But that image has been scarred by running riots through the streets of Copenhagen outside the Parken Stadium following the recent match between FC Copenhagen and local rivals Brondby.

More than 30 people were arrested, and five were charged with related offences.

The Danes are totally perplexed by the sudden outbreak,and have called in hooligan experts from Britain and Germany to help them cope with the problem.

"We hope it will be a one-off thing," said Danish FA official Lars Berendt. And, for the time being, there were no plans to provide extra security at grounds.

The match was won 2-1 by FC Copenhagen, amazingly their first victory of the season after eight games.

New coach Keld Christensen had been sacked after six matches in charge without a victory. And the directors went back to former boss Benny Johansen, who had been released because they were not prepared to give him a two-year contract.

Johansen, of course, returned with just that guarantee, and victory against Brondby began the re-building process. But he could not prevent the club losing 2-1 on aggregate to Slovan Bratislava in the UEFA Cup first round.

FC Copenhagen had been pre-season favourites to regain the Superliga title, but the early pace-setters in the first half of the season were resurgent Aab from the northern Jutland city of Aalborg.

Flemming Povlsen . . . out for six months.

They have never won the title in their long history, their best place being a third spot in 1969. That was the club's golden era, winning the Danish Cup in 1966 and 1970. But striker Erik Bo Andersen, top scorer with seven goals so far, is hoping to change all that.

OB Odense are chasing them hard, inspired by Cameroon striker Alphonse Tchami, who has six goals. OB progressed in the UEFA Cup past Linfield with an impressive 6-1 aggregate victory.

The national side have not been faring so well, only able to draw their first European Championship qualifer 1-1 against 10-man Macedonia. And they needed an 87th-minute equaliser from Flemming Povlsen even to achieve that.

That was Povlsen's 21st goal in 62 games for his country, but he will not add to those totals for a long time. Povlsen tore knee ligaments playing for his German club, Borussia Dortmund, and expects to be out for at least six months. That was the time he missed last season, after a similar injury to the other knee.

The knives are now out for manager Richard Moller Nielsen as he defends the European Championship trophy won so thrillingly in Sweden in 1992.

JIM HOLDEN

NORWAY

Rosenborg wrap it up

ROSENBORG TRONDHEIM have won the Norweigian championship for the third successive year and for the ninth time since 1967. No-one can doubt their claim as the country's top club with a remarkable average of 12,000 fans at their home games.

Coach Nils Arne Eggen had the satisfaction of seeing his men secure the title one week and then celebrate next time out with 9-0 thrashing of Brann Bergen. With the championship in their pocket, Rosenborg relaxed — too much. They lost their first home match of the season 2-1 against Viking Stavanger, then crashed out of the Norwegian Cup, losing to second division Molde the semi-finals.

Rosenborg's championship success was an ideal welcome home for Rune Bratseth, who retired after the World Cup finals, quitting Werder Bremen to return to his original club as general manager. Bratseth has made it clear he has finished with playing: "No-one will persuade me to play again. I've had my career. Only if both our full-backs break their legs would I even think about it."

OLA PREVIDD

FINLAND

Knives out for Tommy

FINLAND'S 2-0 home defeat by Scotland was greeted by some bitter comments in the local press, with many calling for the resignation of the national coach Tommy Lindholm.

Scotland's calm, tactically mature performance surprised many Finns, who had expected a more traditional British approach.

"Scotland created two chances and scored from both. We had our chances, too, but failed to score," skipper Ari Hjelm lamented.

Ironically, it was Hjelm who spoiled the best opportunity, when goalkeeper Andy Goram threw the ball directly at Jari Litmanen's feet.

"We tried to build from the back four, but there were far too many bad passes," Lindholm said.

Tactically, Lindholm was outsmarted by Scotland's manager Craig Brown. During the first half, the Celtic pair of Tommy Boyd and John Collins were allowed to run riot for Scotland on the left.

PENTTI HIETANEN

Tommy Lindholm . . . under fire.

SWEDEN

Orebro upset on the cards

WILL unfashionable Orebro upset the Swedish League hierarchy by winning their first-ever title?

With IFK Gothenburg dropping silly points — their 2-1 defeat to local rivals Vastra Frolunda left their normally calm coach Roger Gustafsson fuming — Orebro have made smooth progress.

And if you want goals, in Sweden, Orebro is the place to visit. They performed excellently by thrashing fellow pretenders to the title, Malmo, 4-1.

Miroslaw Kubisztal, the Pole, and Mattias Jonsson have formed a deadly striking partnership, and Orebro made a brilliant coup in mid-season by signing the Icelandic veteran international Arnor Gudjohnsen (formerly of Anderlecht and Bordeaux) from Hacken. He and the revived Christer Fursth have run the show from midfield.

Orebro, formed in 1908, have never won anything. However, their coaches in recent years have included such well-known names as Roy Hodgson, the current Sanfrecce Hiroshima boss Stuart Baxter and Rolf Zetterlund, now with Malmo.

Sweden began their European Championship campaign with a somewhat shaky 1-0 away win over Iceland. The real showdown will be their next game in Switzerland.

Tommy Svensson must be worried that Kennet Andersson, a hero at USA '94, has failed to score in eight matches for his French club Caen, while Anderlecht's midfielder Par Zetterberg will be missing with a renewal of a knee-injury.

PENTTI HIETANEN

LUXEMBOURG

SOME PROMISE FOR PAUL

LUXEMBOURG, with only three professionals, did well to hold Holland to a single goal for an hour before conceding three late goals in their European Championship qualifier.

For coach Paul Philipp there was evidence that Malta and Byelorussia could well be beaten.

Groff stood out as Luxembourg's exceptional player on the night, and Koch made some fine saves — one from a penalty by Bosman.

Dudelange lead the National Division on goal difference from the champions Avenir Beggen and Grevenmacher, who have gathered together a very strong squad, investing heavily with the signings of national keeper Koch and Wilbios from Nurnberg for £150,000.

TIM BRICE

LIECHTENSTEIN

EASY FOR AUSTRIANS

LIECHTENSTEIN's second European Championship qualifier ended in a 4-0 defeat by Austria in Mauren. Polster scored a hat-trick, with Aigner getting the fourth.

Coach Weise does not have a large pool to choose from, but Liechtenstein made the Austrians work hard.

Vaduz have started well in the I Liga. The club from the capital are only two points behind the leaders after five matches.

In the East Swiss Regional League, Balzers set the place with eight points from five games. One point behind Balzers are Schaan. Eschen Mauren have made a disappointing start to the season and are currently lying in mid-table.

GRAEME CRAWFORD

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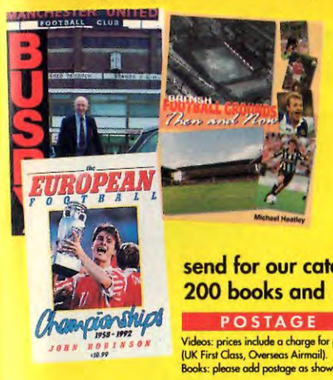

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ROMANIA

General rallies troops

MAXIMUM points from the opening home Euro '96 tie with Azerbaijan will have given "General" Iordanescu confidence for the crucial match in St Etienne against a French side determined to shake off the efforts of a disappointing goalless draw with Slovakia.

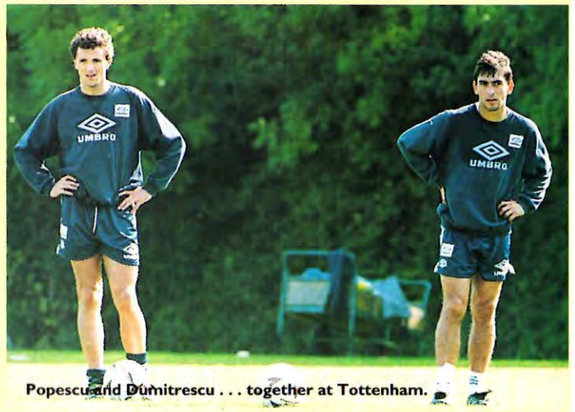
While the match in Bratislava was rarely in danger of being lost, the French showed little and the Romanians will be confident of snatching a point.

Many of Iordanescu's stars have featured in spectacular transfers to England, following that of Dan Petrescu to Sheffield Wednesday, but what shape the Tottenham duo of "Dum" and "Pop" will be in after twice-a-week soccer is doubtful. The less-important friendly at Wembley will prove a good chance to sample the atmosphere for Euro '96, while income will also not go amiss at the FRF in Bucharest.

With less than a quarter of the season gone, Rapid lead after a narrow 2-1 victory at home over National. Twice-defeated Steaua, with a heavy programme of League and Champions League matches, could only draw at lowly Craiova. Bistrita could not go on to further Cup-winners Cup glory and Dinamo's 3-3 home draw with Trabzonspor meant an exit from the UEFA Cup.

Rapid kept the flag flying in the UEFA Cup with goals by Chirita and Vladoiu in the home leg in Bucharest. The second round draw, with a second leg visit to Frankfurt, looks ominous and Eintracht will start favourites.

BOB VAUGHAN



Popescu and Dumitrescu . . . together at Tottenham.

POLAND

Roman in row after shock defeat

SOCCER authorities have called in a psychologist to help the national team after a shock defeat by Israel in their first Euro '96 qualifying match.

Poland lost 2-1 giving an abject performance that led to questions about coach Henryk Apostel's ability.

Headlines next day included "Shame", "Loss of Face" and "Disgrace", and defender Roman Szewczyk said he would never play for the team again.

"I was not the only one to blame," said 29-year-old Szewczyk." The young players did not show much ambition."

The Polish FA have now decided that Apostel should continue as national team coach but should be supported by Ryszard Kulesza, who held the job a decade ago, and a psychologist. We will see if this helps.

People were surprised at Apostel's lack of interest in 23-year-old Wojciech Kowalczyk, just sold to Betis in Spain for $1.7million, one of the highest transfers in Polish history. He scored on his debut, against Sporting Gijon.

Seven LKS Lodz players went on strike and refused to go to Warsaw for a match against Legia. Their main complaint was not having received their bonuses for several months.

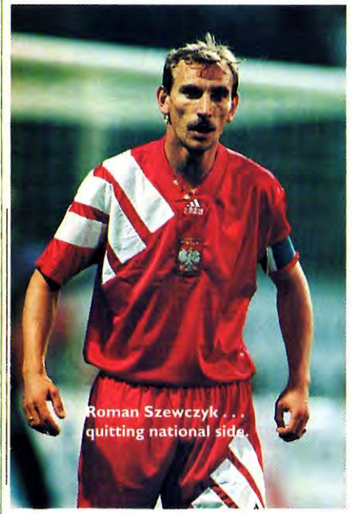
Legia won 3-0 and three days later the players gave up the strike, after the club board found a new sponsor who promised to pay all club debts and player bonuses. LKS were beaten 1-0 by Porto in the Cup-winners Cup next day.

Not only players went on strike in Poland — fans did as well. A few supporters of Baltyk Gdynia began a hunger strike as a protest after the team withdrew from the Second Division for financial reasons.

The fans are demanding that city authorities help out.

GKS Katowice are the only Polish team in the second round of European competition. They beat Aris Salonika on penalties, keeper Janus Jojko saving one and then scoring one.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI



Roman Szewczyk . . . quitting national side.

RUSSIA

Double blow for Romantsev

KIEV DYNAMO's 3-2 defeat of Spartak Moscow in the Champions League match in Kiev was the second consequent blow for Oleg Romantsev, the Spartak coach who now combines his job withd that of the national team manager. Just a week earlier Russia lost their first post-World Cup home friendly to Germany, 1-0.

The game in Kiev revived memories of the great Dynamo-Spartak rivalry of the past when the two teams fought for the USSR League title. The teams had not met officially since 1991 when Spartak won in Kiev 3-2 in what appeared to be the teams' last game in the USSR championships.

In the Kiev Republican Stadium almost 100,000 fans saw striker Viktor Leonenko shoot Kiev to victory.

Spartak's defence looked helpless in the absence of suspended internationals Viktor Onopko and Oleg Nikiforov ironically — both Ukrainians by origin. Without players like Valeri Karpin, Vladlmir Beschastnykh and Igor Ledyakhov, who left the team after the World Cup, advancing in the Champions League might be a bigger problem for Spartak than last year.

In the meantime Spartak are still going strong in the Russian League. They captured the national title long before the end of the tournament for the third consequent season. Six teams — Dinamo Moscow, Rotor, KAMAZ, Tektilishik, Lokomotiv Moscow and Spartak Vladlkavkaz — are vying for the medals and UEFA Cups berths. Igor Simutenkov of Dinamo Moscow tops the scorers list with 19 goals in 25 games, followed by Moscow Lokomotiv's Oleg Garin with 17.

The national team's loss to Germany was described as "optimistic tragedy" by the local press. In spite of its defeat the new Russian squad looked much better than its predecessor. Fifty thousand spectators at the Luzhniki Olympic arena in Moscow saw their foreign-based idols again. Sergei Kirlakov, Andrei Kanchelskis, Igor Shalimov and Igor Kolyvanov returned to the team immediately after former coach Pavel Sadyrin's resignation was announced after the World Cup.

Romantsev's national team has much better chances in European Cup qualifiers than Spartak's team has in the Champions League. The national team's next challenge is against Scotland on November 16.

VICTOR GUSEV

HUNGARY

Stadler arouse suspicion

THE HUNGARIAN police have been called in to investigate claims by Bekescsaba that the result of their championship match against Stadler newly promoted on September 9 was rigged.

Stadler won the match in Bekescsaba 2-0, thus gaining their first victory in the campaign.

Jozsef Pasztor, the Bekescaba coach, said after the match that his club were approached by players and executives of Stadler to affect the course of the game.

Sorin Cigan, the Romanian previously at Ferencvaros, and Geza Toszer, the technical director, are two members of Stadler named by Pasztor in relation to the claims.

Stadler's multi-millionaire owner Jozsef Stadler has aroused suspicion within the game by the manner of his club's sudden rise — they achieved promotion after only two seasons in the Second Division — and resentment in the town of Kiskoros by the changes he has wrought to life in the area through his business ventures.

On the pitch, having hired a collection of players with First Division experience, Stadler — the team — had several narrow losses before suffering their first heavy defeat, 4-0, as late as the seventh round at Gyor against ETO. They are at the bottom of the table, with three points, the same as Parmalat.

At the top Ujpest refuse to settle for less than victory after winning all eight games. They lead by seven points from Kispest-Honved, whose only defeat was 3-2 at third-placed Ferencvaros.

Ferencvaros had two players, Tamas Szekeres and Eugen Neagoe, sent off when trailing 2-0 at home to Ujpest, for whom former green-and-white forward Laszlo Wukovics scored two goals in the 3-2 win. Later, in the eighth round, Ferencvaros thrashed Vac FC Samsung the fifth defeat for the champions.

Other than Ujpest's streak, the encouraging aspect of the season so far has been the impressive play of BVSC-Dreher, with four wins in eight games.

In Europe, Kispest prospered at Enschede where in a 4-1 win over Twente in the UEFA Cup Kalman Kovacs scored his second hat-trick of the season and has regained his place in the national team.

Kalman Meszoly's first selection in his third term as national team manager contained six foreign-based players — including his son, Geza — for the European Championship qualifier in Budapest against Turkey, a team Meszoly has also managed. Despite the home advantage the Magyars could achieve only a 2-2 draw, having led 2-0 at half-time.

His third 'honeymoon' is over!

BOB VAUGHAN

Tamas Szekeres . . . bad boy.

UKRAINE

Bad news for Bazilevitch

The Ukraine national team started their first ever European Chmapionship qualifying competition with a surprise 2-0 defeat at home to Lithuania.

Manager Oleg Bazilevitch's problems began two weeks earlier when he incurred the wrath of Kiev Dynamo.

Bazilevitch wanted the national squad to train together in Bulgaria for two weeks prior to the Lithuania game. This would have meant eight Kiev Dynamo players missing the crucial Champions League clash with Spartak Moscow. Dynamo bosses refused to release their players and Bazilevitch responded by not picking any Dynamo players. As a result, five players made their debut for the national side.

Ukraine failed to break down a well-organised Lithuanian side that relied on counter-attacks and Ivanauskas, nicknamed "Ivan the Terrible" by Lithuanian fans, opened the scoring in the 53rd minute with a spectacular individual effort. Skarbalius got Lithuania's second.

After the game, Bazilevitch said the Ukrainian team had shown meagre doses of ambition as well as a lack of skill and flair.

Bazilevitch's record since taking over in November 1992 has been modest: four wins, three draws and four defeats. He has yet to establish the right balance in the team and has used 45 different players in his 11 games in charge.

The Champions League brought together two arch rivals from the former Soviet Union, Spartak Moscow and Kiev Dynamo.

Spartak arrived in Kiev for the opening game in the 1994/95 Champions League without two Russian internationals, defender Nikiforov and midfielder Onopko, suspended after receiving second yellow cards in last season's Champions League matches.

Despite a confident start by Dynamo, Spartak quickly assumed control and went ahead on 12 minutes through Pisarev.

Dynamo should have equalised 13 minutes later when Mamedov tripped Prizetko, but Mikhailenko missed from the penalty spot. Spartak scored a second when Tikhonov beat the offside trap in the 38th minute.

Dynamo turned the heat up in the second half. Victor Leonenko was in devastating form, scoring twice to take his tally in European competitions to seven goals in eight games.

With four minutes to go Rebrov hit a sparkling volley to win the game for the Ukrainian champions.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

Leonenko . . . sparkling form.

BULGARIA

Levski lead the way

LEAGUE action was interrupted by the Second Round of the new League Cup, in which leaders Levski were run a close 4-2 by Second Division Pirin.

CSKA fared far worse and went out to the only goal at Chardafon, as did Slavia at Martiza. So nine top flight clubs and Levski will be facing the challenge of six minnows in Round Three.

CSKA are having a difficult season too in the League, where a 4-0 thrashing at promoted Spartak Plovdiv was followed by humiliation when Levski called and administered a 7-1 hiding. It was the end for coach Bojil Kolev, who had been taken on in late summer when Dimitar Penev declined CSKA's offer and decided to remain in charge of the national team.

Kolev's successor, Tsvetan Jontchev, now has the problem of turning things around — and quickly. With a fifth of the season gone, the former army club are four points off the bottom and out of Europe.

In the first round of the UEFA Cup against Juventus, Mihtarski put CSKA level in Sofia after a 35th-minute opening goal by Porrini and second-half goals by Raducanov and a late winner by Miktarski gave Jontchev's team a slender lead to take to Turin. They were not to know the next disaster to overtake them there, and the 5-1 defeat leaves little prospect of much success this season.

With Panathinaikos accounting for Pirin Blagoevgrad after a Greek victory in Bulgaria, there is only European Championship fare to look forward to.

Georgia kick off the Bulgars' programme in Sofia and are followed in November by the Moldovans. So, in theory, he should be going to Cardiff with maximum points. Form of the foreign stars will be vital, especially in view of the dismay at CSKA.

BOB VAUGHAN

ALBANIA

Tirana line up title challenge

CHAMPIONS Teuta and Cup-winners Tirana start as clear favourites for the Championship.

Teuta have no new players but Tirana will be stronger with new forward Auron Miloti, signed from Vllaznia. "Tirana are possible contenders for the title after six years," said coach Shkelqim Muca. His team started well with a 3-1 win against Shkumbini and a 3-2 away victory at Albpetrol. Indrid Fortuzi scored three goals.

Partizani also started well with wins at Beselidhja (2-0) and Apolonia (5-1).

After losing 4-1 to Fandok of Byelorussia in the first leg of the Cup-winners Cup preliminary round, Tirana won 3-0 in a dramatic second leg at the Qemal Stafa stadium to go through to the first round proper. Albanian Player of the Year Fortuzi scored all three goals.

In the first qualifying match for European Championships Albania lost 2-0 against Wales in Cardiff. Surprisingly the new Albanian coach Neptun Bajko played with nine players who play abroad, including Ylli Shehu, 28, who now players with Shibenik (Croacia) and veteran Agustin Kola, 35.

GEZIM NUSHI

CZECH REPUBLIC

High hopes of Maltese double

OPTIMISM generated by the high-scoring win over Malta will be needed when the Czechs go to Holland for the third match in Group 5 of the Euro '96 qualifiers.

Manager Dusan Uhrin will also have to tighten up the defence from the Ostrava opener, where better Maltese finishing could have proved embarrassing in the first half.

Uhrin flew straight from the first game with Malta to spy on the Dutch in Luxembourg and that visit can only have confirmed his fears for the match in Amsterdam.

Full points at home and in Valletta and Minsk (against Byelorussia) could put the Czechs in with a shout, but it is going to be a long and hard road and Uhrin is wise not to make any promises.

He will not have been encouraged by the European whitewash. Spartak's early demise was bad enough in the Champions League qualifiers, but Slavia's inglorious exit from the UEFA Cup was the last straw. They should have been well in front of AIK Stockholm in the return at Vrsovice after an impressive goalless draw in Sweden. Instead they were "coasting" at 2-1 thanks to Suchoparek's penalty and Bejbl's 57th-minute winner when, eight minutes from time, Sundgren equalised for the Swedes, who took the tie on away goals. At the post-match press conference coach Jindrich Dejmal looked to have aged prematurely, declaring: "Soccer makes you mad!"

Income from Cup-winners Cup progress was something which did not seem to worry town-rivals Viktoria Zizkov, who decided to play Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea in Jablonec. Much has been written on the reasons for the move and certainly Viktoria's fans were in little doubt. Few were prepared to travel nearly all the way to the Polish border for what proved a poor game and a luckless one for the surprise leaders of the "1. Liga."

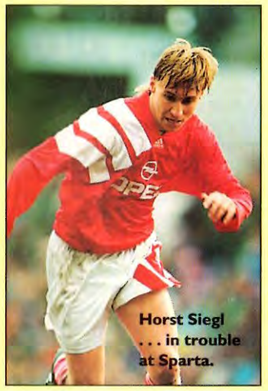
Vrabec's missed penalty and Kharin's double save were the turning points, Chelsea having been set on the road at Stamford Bridge by less successful netminding by the youthful Zitka whom coach Kotrba substituted with the equally inexperienced Silhavy for the return.

Now it is back to domestic football for all three Prague clubs and the fight for the autumn title. Sparta are having to quell a player revolt led by Horst Siegl and Martin Frydek, who claim they have not been paid bonuses by president Petr Mach.

Zdenek Nehoda's position in this strife is, as with the dismissal of Karol Dobias, ambiguous, and with player-power cracking, Siegl and Frydek were banished to the "stiffs". Both were promptly sent off in a reserve game and reported to be pleased to be dismissed! Neither wants to vegetate in Division Three and both Hradec Kralove and, guess who, none other than Viktoria, would like to sign the pair!

Peace seems on the horizon, however, and perhaps all concerned can get back to trying to keep the title. Only Slavia and leaders Viktoria have had any profit from the altercation.

BOB VAUGHAN



Horst Siegl . . . in trouble at Sparta.

SLOVAKIA

Fine start in France

THE national team and its chief, "Jo" Venglos, can be well pleased with the goalless opening draw in France.

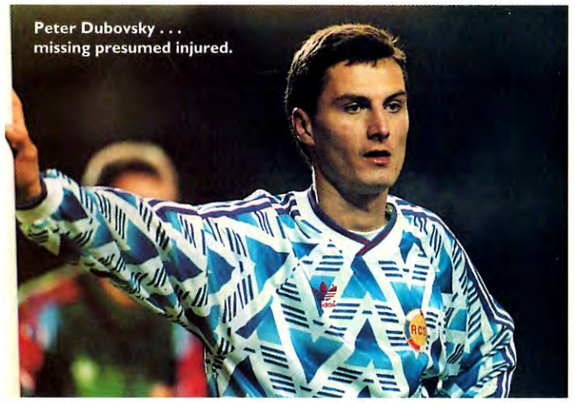
The country's first ever competitive match at this level was achieved without the services of arguably the best player, Peter Dubovsky, whom Real Madrid were unable to release on health grounds. UEFA apparently accepted Real's explanation.

In the Cup-winners Cup Tatran Presov did especially well to oust Dundee United in Presov. It was valuable experience for Kocis and Co., who now face Real Zaragoza. Confidence will be high after dismissing two British teams, one a seed, but the second leg in Spain away may just tilt the odds Zaragoza's way. Slovan have an even tougher task against Borussia Dortmund, their third opponents of the season in the UEFA Cup. Putting out the German giants would be a miracle but Slovan's form is good. They top the Slovak "Tabulka" with 22 points out of a possible 24.

Some topsy turvy results leave Tatran only two points off the bottom and Banska Bystrica surprisingly second, while Trnava continued their recent improvement with a 3-2 home win over Xilina.

Shortly interest will switch back to Euro '96 with a blank League weekend to help Venglos to prepare for the visit to Tel Aviv. He will have noted the Israeli success in Paris and, while being cautious, will hope for two points before a tougher task — a visit to Bucharest. It is to be hoped he has striker Dubovsky on board for both encounters.

BOB VAUGHAN



Peter Dubovsky . . . missing presumed injured.

MALTA

Ghedin happy with a drubbing

MALTA went down 6-1 in their opening European championship qualifier against the Czech Republic in Ostrava — their heaviest defeat since Italy beat them in Palermo by an identical scoreline 18 months ago.

"Our opponents proved to be perfect in every move they made, but I'm satisfied with my team's performance," commented coach Ghedin.

A fortnight earlier, Malta had achieved a morale-boosting 1-1 draw with Slovakia in Bratislava.

In Europe, the three Maltese participants all went out in the preliminary round. In the UEFA Cup, Hibernians went very near to creating an upset when, after 90 minutes of the second leg, they led Minsk Dinamo 3-1, and were level on aggregate. They went on to win the game 4-3 after extra time but bowed out 6-5 on aggregate.

Hibernians lodged a formal complaint against the result of the first leg, after Dinamo player Valentin Belkevich failed a dope test. Belkevich was suspended for a year and his club were heavily fined, but the result stood.

Valletta earned a creditable 1-1 away draw against Rapid Bucharest, but lost 6-2 on aggregate.Much was expected of Floriana, against Sligo Rovers, but a 1-0 defeat in Ireland put them out of the Cup-winners Cup, 3-2.

On the domestic front, the new Premier League has began. Sliema, Floriana — reinforced by Serbian striker Igor Stefanovic — Hibernians and Valletta all won one and drew one of their first two games.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

TURKEY

Cameras catch ref's blunder

THE First Division League match between Gaziantep and Denizlispor will be replayed after a refereeing blunder was exposed by TV cameras.

Gaziantep won the game 1-0, but later it was discovered that the referee, Sabahattin Sahin, had wrongly disallowed Denizlispor's equaliser.

The Turkish Football Federation ruled the game should be replayed after a video replay showed the goal should have stood.

Fenerbahce suffered a 4-0 defeat by Cannes in France in the UEFA Cup and they lost away in the league to newcomers Vanspor, 1-0. After the game Fenerbahce's manager Holger Osieck commented: "We played with trembling knees. Our boys lost their confidence after the Cannes defeat. Football is full of surprises. In the last minute one bad mistake cost a goal and lost three valuable points".

These two unexpected defeats led to managerial changes. Fenerbahce sacked veteran international Cemil Turan and brought coach Yilmaz Yucaturk, who made his coaching career in Germany, speaks fluent German and could easily converse with Osieck. Fenerbahce bounced back, defeating Adana Demirspor 3-0 at home with goals by Aykat (2) and Feyyas.

Galatasaray and Besiktas both lost points in the sixth playing week. Besiktas lost at home to Buraspor, 2-1, with two Africans, Yusuef and Mususi scoring for Bursa; Oktay for Besiktas.

Galatasaray were lucky to steal a draw away to Samsun, 2-2. It was a near escape, their equaliser from Sedat coming in the last seconds. Gala are the only unbeaten team in the league. They lead the league with 16 points from Besiktas and Fenerbahce, both on 15 points.

Top scorer in the league is Gala's Saffet, with eight goals.

HASAN CAMELI

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FOOTBALL COACHES AND TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

World class coaches in action!

THE ASSOCIATION was fortunate to have some of the game's top coaches in attendance at its September Coaching Day at Eton *(right)*. The weather was even kind to us this time.

The day started with a lecture by Allen Wade, former Director of Coaching at the FA, who gave an insight into the developments of the game worldwide.

Allen paid particular attention to the needs of our game in developing skill and technique and recognising these attributes. A detailed evaluation will be included in the next issue of *Catalyst*.

His performance was particularly impressive as it not only covered simple effective advice for teaching the game at a domestic level, but also highlighted the need to continue to work hard to achieve these goals.

A practical session then followed, coached by Terry Burton (Assistant Manager) and Ernie Tippett (Youth Manager) of Wimbledon FC, covering the development of back-four defensive play.

An excellent session was unfortunately affected by the standard of players utilised and a car park problem. We must ask them to come back and do another full session for members.

After an excellent lunch provided by Eton College (thanks to Glen Pierce and all the staff) we were treated to a short lecture and video on Don Howe's thoughts about the World Cup.Victor Stanculescu then talked about his Three Dimensional System and his analysis from the World Cup.

Moving back to practical sessions, Keith Waldon (ex-Spurs Youth team manager) used some of the members and developed an excellent session on diagonal running for crossing and attacking with the front two attackers working together to create space on the wings.

Don Howe then followed and recreated his thoughts from his World Cup lecture about attackers pulling away from defenders to create space and then how to utilise this to attack a retreating back-four.

Once again the audience of coaches, drawn from all levels of soccer, appreciated watching world class coaches in action.

Last to perform and very late in the day was Victor Stanculescu who produced a session on developing skills and techniques by just allowing players, particularly youngsters, to play.

We're growing fast

MEMBERSHIP of the Association is now well on its way to 1,500 and is a credit to all the coaches and technicians who have performed for members this year and to you, the membership, who have travelled all over the country in support of our efforts.

Our thoughts also go to Gary Lineker who has recently announced his retirement from the game due to recurring injury. His loss to the game is incalculable, one of our true great ambassadors who, like another sad loss to our game recently Billy Wright, was never booked or sent off during his playing career.

If only youngsters of today could follow their example of how to play the game in its true spirit.

We hope Gary will be able to attend one of our sessions in the New Year.

Finally, we are receiving requests from various organisations to look at ways our members could be part of exchange programmes as well as looking to regionalise coaching days, particularly as our numbers expand.

Please return the questionnaire recently forwarded to you to help us put a Forward Diary Programme together, this will be included in next month's *WORLD SOCCER*.

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THE MORE THE MERRIER

TREVOR — I wholeheartedly agree with the decision to increase the World Cup finals to 32 countries, with the prospect of 16 advancing to the knockout stages. This is surely the best format that FIFA have used since 1970.
— BURNIE HARNER, Northumberland, Pennsylvania, USA.

WITH so many additional small countries emerging in recent years, the argument for expansion was increasing from all quarters. Thirty two is about the maximum though, as any more would mean stretching the time span still further, whereas I feel a month is about long enough. Beyond that would threaten the interest and quality of the matches played. Eight groups of four will make it a much clearer qualification process to the knockout stage. Also, just the top two countries progressing through will eliminate all that confusion caused by the third place calculations required during the last couple of World Cups.

SUPER SUBS

TREVOR — Still on the subject of penalty shoot-outs in the World Cup. Why not allow unlimited numbers of substitutions after 90 minutes (like hockey, for example)?

We would see some fresh legs and this method would decide which side has more depth and talent and who could earn victory using all of their strengths, and not their nerves.
— SAM NABILI, Los Angeles, California, USA.

YET another alternative to the unpopular penalty shoot-out saga! Bringing on unlimited substitutes doesn't seem to offer a more likely outcome, and if they are predominately defenders, they could prolong it still further. The arguments are bound to continue, but I prefer one of the earlier suggestions — gradually reducing the number of outfield players. Taking a player off from either side at, say, ten-minute intervals would provide more space, and hopefully more scoring chances. It would eventually produce a decisive outcome, especially if it was also sudden death.

CALLING ALL EURO REFS

TREVOR — Have you ever seen a Libertadores Cup match? Do you think they are very violent? In my opinion they are. I would like to see European referees working in these games. Do you think they would have the courage to be rigorous? Would they be afraid of the players, for example Argentinians and Uruguayans?
— EURICO DE O. PEGO, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

UNFORTUNATELY, I have not, although after what you say in your letter, that may be just as well! Mind you, any crucial cup match between bitter rivals is bound to have that extra edge to it, wherever it is played. Certainly I have no doubts about the ability of European referees to cope with such volatile atmospheres. Any top class official must be decisive and retain firm control. As long as they remain consistent with their interpretation of the rules then they should create that respect, whilst imposing their authority on the occasion.

RED CARD PERIL

TREVOR — Do you believe a player should be sent off for bringing down someone who has a clear run on goal, after making a genuine attempt to play the ball?

If the challenge was malicious or involved man-handling, then the player should be shown the red card and a penalty awarded, regardless of whether the challenge was made inside or outside the box.

If, however, it was a genuine attempt to play the ball, then the player should be shown the yellow card as well as conceding a penalty. I have seen several games ruined by dismissals for this offence.
— RICHARD TURNER, Knowle, West Midlands

IN THEORY this seems a sensible option. The problem is the inconsistency of the interpretation. If ten referees studied the same incident, but were allowed flexibility in their decision, I would expect five to show a red card and five yellow. By insisting on the red card, at least a level of consistency is established. Unfortunately, I think it is something that defenders must reluctantly adapt to.

PUSH AND SHOVE

TREVOR — Tottenham manager Arthur Rowe developed a system called "push and run" many years ago.

I imagine the same system being developed by current manager Ossie Ardiles with the sort of squad he's got now.

Do you think push and run could make a return with Dumitrescu, Klinsmann and Popescu in the set-up?
— ALAN HEADON, Dublin.

SYSTEMS and styles change all the time, but your "push and run" description is something all good footballing teams develop when they are playing well. Currently, Newcastle and Manchester United are two very exciting teams who always seem to give the player in possession plenty of choices to pass the ball, whether they be forwards or defenders. When they lose possession though, they work just as hard to get it back, and it is probably in this area that Ossie Ardiles has not been able to achieve the right balance yet at Spurs. Once they get that balance right, they can genuinely begin to prepare for a trophy challenge next year.

TOO MANY EXCUSES

TREVOR — Some of the problems with our domestic game lie in the convenient excuses proffered by TV experts.

"Our boys are playing too many games in a season" falls flat when compared with Spain. Last season, Barcelona played more than 70 games, won the championship, played in the European Cup Final, as well as appearing in other tournaments and charitable events.
— ROGER WILLIAMS, Mijas, Spain.

TO GET match fit most players like at least half a dozen pre-season friendlies, but why do clubs take on exhibition games abroad during the season? The clubs concerned are guilty of plain greed. It is difficult for players to retain fitness playing so many games, and at some stage they will be below full fitness.

BAHRAIN BLUES

TREVOR —Junior football leagues do exist here in Bahrain, but the chances of joining are slim. Most children have to get used to soccer fields of uneven surface, dust, sand and stones.

Perhaps FIFA should spend more money opening soccer schools and establishing leagues worldwide?
— NIKHIL JAGANATHAN, Manama, Bahrain.

I SYMPATHISE with your dilemma and your request may well be worth a suggestion in the right direction. Uneven playing surfaces can actually enhance ball control and skill. More restrictive would be the lack of matches, as you need to put those ball skills into action. But keep practising hard as you will reap the benefits later!

SHOULD REFEREES HAVE THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT?

TREVOR — Do you think that the time has now come for FIFA to introduce a "sin bin" penalty system on the lines of that used in Rugby League?

More contentiously, perhaps linesmen could be given whistles?

Lastly, the time may well have come for a video referee to be introduced, as with cricket's extra umpire.
— PHELIUM HERNING, Haringey, London.

THE yellow and red card clampdown this season is an indication that FIFA wishes to install some sort of firmer control. Hopefully that should halt the need to consider your "sin bin" alternative used in Rugby League. I'm not convinced about the linesmen using whistles, because with the noise generated at certain grounds, it could prove confusing. I think linesmen's flags are distinctive enough, and there is no real need for change.

The video referee could well be introduced for major tournaments in the future, although there is a great danger that managers, players and supporters will demand queries for almost any incident and then it become farcical. It could only be introduced if it was made available to everyone in the same competition, and not just to the larger clubs who may be able to afford it.

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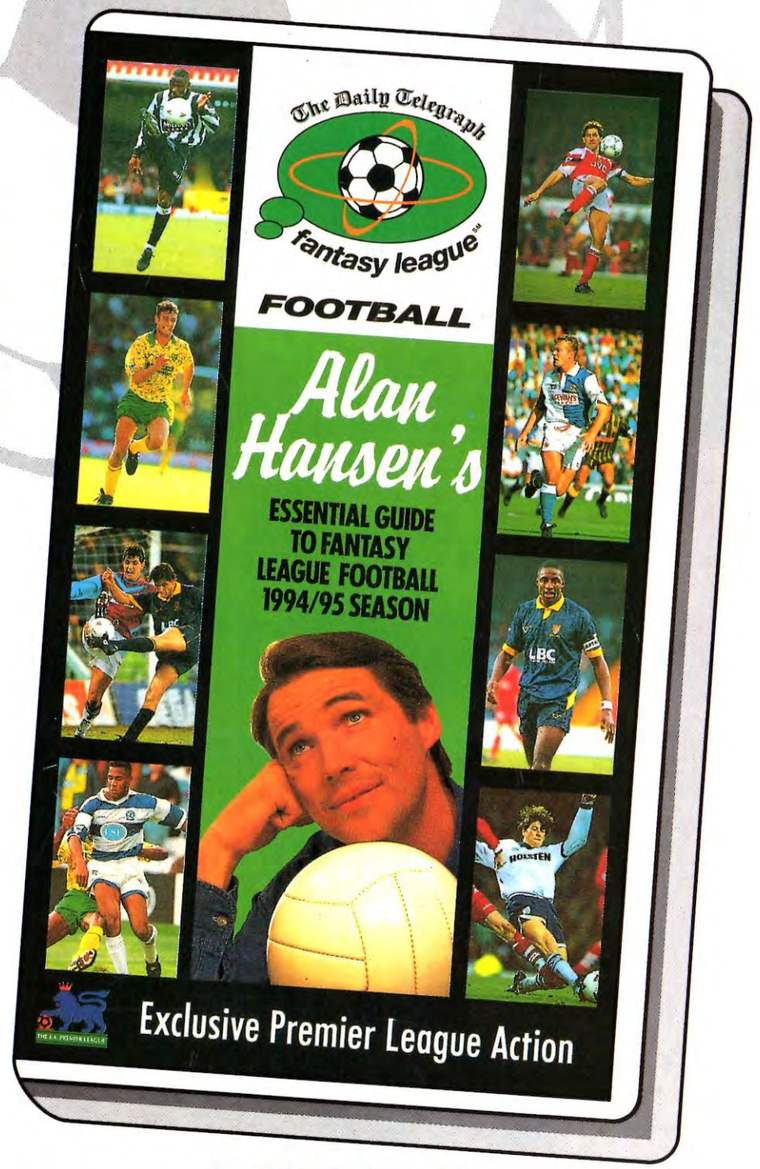

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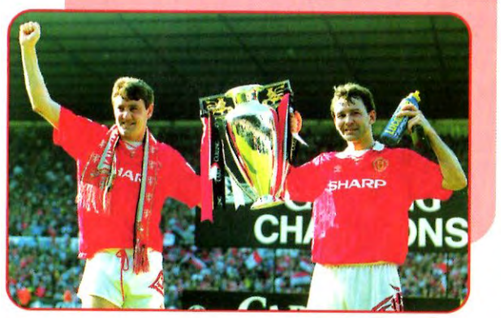

IT'S THAT time of the year again when *WORLD SOCCER* readers have the chance to vote in the exclusive *WORLD SOCCER* annual poll for World Player of the Year, Team of the Year and Manager of the Year.

Roberto Baggio was the popular choice last year, joining a long line of prestigious winners that includes Diego Maradona, Ruud Gullit, Michel Platini, Zico and Marco Van Basten. Alex Ferguson was your Manager of the Year and Parma the Team of the Year.

The World Cup finals were a showcase for the talents of many of the leading contenders for this year's awards.

Brazil's victory in USA '94 provides individual contenders in Romario and Bebeto, to name only two. But there were so many other notable performers, including Gheorghe Hagi, Paolo Maldini, Roberto and Dino Baggio, Jurgen Klinsmann, Yordan Lechkov, Hristo Stoichkov, Michel Preud'homme, Thomas Ravelli, Fernando Redondo, Jose Chamot, Tomas Brolin, Park Jung-bae, Saeed Owarain . . . and not forgetting six-goal Igor Salenko.

But there also were plenty of skilled performers who did not get to the USA: Eric Cantona, Alan Shearer and Ryan Giggs to name just three. They and others will be earning votes.

A World Cup victory should guarantee first place in any top-team vote, but Brazil's was not a vintage performance, and there are at least two other candidates to ensure that this is no single-team stroll.

Milan's superb performance in the Champions Cup Final has entered the game's folklore, and Manchester United's double — almost a treble, remember — won them countless admirers.

As for the bosses on the bench, you can take your pick from Carlos Alberto Parreira, Alex Ferguson, Fabio Capello, Arrigo Sacchi, Johan Cruyff, Dimitar Penev, Anghel Iordanescu, Jack Charlton — or anyone else you think deserves the honour.

The *WORLD SOCCER* awards frequently attract a sympathy vote for deserving cases. So we expect to see nominations for Zambia, who almost reached the World Cup finals despite a devastating air disaster, Deportivo La Coruna, deprived of the Spanish championship with the last kick of the last game, and poor Andres Escobar, murdered after scoring an own goal while playing for his native Colombia.

There will be many candidates, from all around the globe, but only three winners. The decision is yours!

Your choice, one in each of the three categories, Player, Team and Manager, should be sent on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope, to:

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Add your name and address and please try to ensure that your votes arrive before the closing date, December 5.

ARGENTINA

The right stuff

Daniel Passarella has got what it takes to succeed in the top job, says Eric Weil

THE man certainly has something! And whether Argentina quickly return to the international top grade or not, Daniel Alberto Passarella — who has just signed a three-year contract as national team coach, renewable for another year if the country qualify for the next World Cup — is certainly the man for the job.

He has the experience of 15 seasons playing in top soccer in Argentina (at River Plate, where he won seven titles) and Italy (Fiorentina and Inter) and 71 full international caps, including two World Cups (1978, as winner, and 1982).

Then he had four years coaching River Plate, where the pressure is at least as great as with a national team. During that time the club won three League titles. And he is only 41.

Passarella also seems to have been the only person ever to stand up to Maradona, scolding him for not preparing properly for an international game at a time when Maradona, at his own request, had been given the captaincy. They still are not on friendly terms.

Passarella had already been one of the favourites to become national team coach instead of Alfio Basile at the end of 1990, and it was thought then that Maradona's opinion swayed the issue.

Strong discipline and a straight, outspoken manner, as well as intense love for the national team, are Passarella virtues. Apart from the fact that he always played his heart out, this was clearly shown in other incidents.

On one occasion when River Plate were asked to release five players for the national team while they were playing in the Libertadores Cup, club officials pressed the players to resign from the national team. Passarella was one of two who did not agree. And he would never exchange his shirt with rivals after a match.

Passarella went through some hard times before reaching the top, but his worst moments came in Mexico in 1986 when Argentina won their second World Cup. A stomach infection kept him out and he watched the games on TV from a hospital bed.

The work plan he presented to the Argentine FA carried the title: "National team for all". What did that mean?

"That the door of the national team is open for everybody," he said. "They say I like bringing on youngsters — and I've promoted a lot of them to the first team at River Plate — but there will also be room for players getting on for 30."

What about Maradona, with whom he has not seen eye to eye?

"When I say everybody, I mean everybody, but here we are not talking about the near future because he he has been suspended for 15 months, and whether he will then be in condition to come back, I really don't know, but it will depend on him.

"All the players who come into the squad will first of all have to understand what it means to wear the national colours, be serious, professional and responsible and that they will all start at zero.

"Nobody will play because of their name. They will have to show every day why they are in the national team."

And how are the team going to play?

"I will look for an aggressive and fast team who look first at their rivals' goal and with numerous tactical variations."

Passarella also said that in picking his first squad of 16 to 20 players he would consult with his predecessors, Cesar Menotti, Carlos Bilardo and Alfio Basile, and that he would also consult with club coaches on any of their players picked. He would want to know what kind of person they are, not just how they play.

And he was firm on two other things: "Argentine players eat all wrong. They eat far too much red meat, which is all wrong for an athlete." Red meat is the Argentine's staple food, though meat consumption has decreased by a third in recent years.

Daniel Passarella . . . accomplished player and now (left) respected coach.

"No more private commercial contracts will be allowed for players or coaching staff in the national team," asserted Passarella. Contracts between players and brand names and certain sections of the media resulted in some of them earning more in this way than from soccer, while some of the media were given more access to them than others.

Both Menotti and Bilardo were keener to play away because of the pressure on the players, and to meet European rather than South American rivals.

Basile, on the other hand, had wanted to play more games at home so that fans became more identified with the national team.

Passarella goes a step further. He wants to play matches in the provinces against provincial selections as well — at least once a month for the moment. "One match in the provinces is worth more than a week training in Buenos Aires," he said.

Passarella will soon have plenty of chances to prove himself. The national team will play their first game at home against Chile in the second half of November. Then comes the Intercontinental Cup in Arabia from January 5-11, the Panamerican Games in Mar del Plata (for Under-22s) in March and the South American Championship in Montevideo in June.

He takes his entire coaching staff from River Plate to the national team. The team includes assistant coaches Americo Gallego and Alejandro Sabella, both ex-internationals (the latter also having played for Sheffield United and Leeds United) and PT coach Ricardo Pizzarotti, who was on the national team's coaching staff in 1978 when they won the World Cup.

DANIEL ALBERTO PASSARELLA
Born Chacabuco, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, on May 25, 1953.
Favourite position Libero.
Clubs played for 1966-73 Argentino Chacabuco; 1973 Sarmiento Junin; 1974-1982 River Plate; 1982-86 Fiorentina (Italy); 1986-88 Internazionale (Italy); 1988-9 River Plate.
Internationals 71 (45 as captain).
Clubs coached River Plate 1990-94.
Major successes — International World Cup winner 1978, World Cup finalist 1982. **Club** Champion with River Plate 1975 (1st Division & national), 1977 (1st Div), 1979 (1st Div & national), 1980 (1st Div), 1981 (Nat). **Coach** River Plate champions 1989-90 (Nat), 1991 (Nat opening), 1993 (Nat closing).

Lucky 13th for Independiente

INDEPENDIENTE took their 13th Argentinian League title in winning the 1993/4 season's national closing championship, but as has been the case for the past few years, there is no national club champion for the season, because the winners of the opening and closing championship do not meet.

Under the circumstances, adding up titles is a bit ambiguous as for a time there was also a National and First Division championship in the same season. Taking this into account, River Plate are the leading title winners (since the start of professional soccer in 1931) with 23.

They are followed by Boca Juniors (16), Independiente (13), San Lorenzo (seven), Racing Club (six), Newell's Old Boys and Central (both from Rosario) (four), Estudiantes de La Plata (three), Argentinos Juniors, FC Oeste and Velez Sarsfield (two), Chacarita Juniors, Huracan and Quilmes (one).

The closing championship could not have been closer. Only 13 points separated the top and bottom clubs, so that lack of World Cup success did not dampen the enthusiasm for domestic soccer. Nor did more and more TV exposure, with matches screened live in the evening.

Jose Serrizuela . . . big at the back for Independiente.

But the standard of league play continued to be poor and there was no outstanding club.

The refereeing did improve, though, which made far cleaner play. And hooligan fans were less in evidence following a crackdown after two River Plate fans were shot dead.

One of the reasons for Independiente's success was the return after a lengthy layoff of Gustavo Lopez, who formed an excellent attacking midfield with Perez and Garnero.

Lopez is one of Argentina's most promising young players and one of the few who can dribble past opponents and then make a precision pass. Currently he looks the most likely successor to Diego Maradona.

Independiente also brought former Colombian international striker Usuruaga, who proved a good score in what is an attack-minded team. Although there are doubts about the defence, the line-up features eight current and potential Argentine internationals: goalkeeper Islas, defenders Craviotto, Rotchen and Cagna, midfielders Perez, Lopez and Garnero and striker Rambert, as well as former international defender Jose Serrizuela.

River Plate looked like the strongest team before the championship went into a two-month recess during the World Cup, but they inexplicably lost their way when it resumed with six games to go.

The championship reached a real climax when Independiente and Huracan (who were leading by a point) met on the last day.

Nobody was surprised that Independiente won, although the ease of their 4-0 victory was unexpected.

All credit to their coach, Hector Cuper, who could not even follow the games from the bench because he does not yet have a coaching certificate.

Velez Sarsfield devoted their efforts to winning the Libertadores Cup, fielding reserves in numerous League games, which accounts for their position, two points from the bottom. Boca Juniors continued to flounder. Their players do not seem to be able to get to grips with Cesar Menotti's tactics.

Relegation, on points average over the past three seasons, sent down Gimnasia y Tiro (Salta) after only one season and Estudiantes de La Plata, the club with an illustrious past and three Libertadores Cup wins.

Lack of cash and a poor youth policy prevented them from fieldiing competitive teams in recent years.

Sergio Martinez . . . Boca Juniors' top gun.

Hernan Crespo (River Plate) and Marcelo Espina (Platense) were joint top scorers of the closing championship with 11 goals.

Overall in the 1993-94 season, Sergio Martinez (Boca Juniors) was highest scorer with 20, followed by Claudio Sponton (Platense) with 15.

ERIC WEIL

Diego never lost for words

DIEGO MARADONA gave a rare media conference a few days after being suspended for 15 months by FIFA as a result of his positive drug test during the World Cup.

The event took place at Boca Juniors, the club where he won his first League title. He is still a great fan.

Maradona, clean-shaven for once, addressed a crowd of journalists and photographers in often barely audible tones. Here is a selection of the more important things he said:

"They killed me. I'm completely dead both as a man and a player, but I think I'm finished with soccer anyway. Yet it's totally unfair. There are no words to express what they did to me. During the World Cup I said they had cut my legs away. I think now they've cut my entire body away.

"It was wonderful. I used to play morning and afternoon. Even when I went to bed with my wife I was training. Now, when I get up in the morning I have no stimulant in life. My future now is to give my daughters and my wife the best I can.

"FIFA can be compared to the Mafia. Unfortunately this Mafia is also in Argentina. When they say hello to you, be careful.

"I have lost confident in Grondona (the Argentine FA president who, he feels, did not defend him properly at the FIFA tribunal) and I don't want to talk about Bilardo (the 1986 and 1990 World Cup coach).

Maradona . . . facing the press.

"If I had not been suspended, I think I would have played for Boca. Now their coach (Menotti) has approached me about training the juniors and I hope to learn a lot from him.

"I am not going to hang Daniel Cerrini (his dietician at the World Cup) for that mistake. It's all over. I spoke to him recently, but that's private."

Maradona did not travel to the FIFA meeting in Zurich on the advice of his lawyers. In any case, a few days earlier he had been indicted by the courts in the case brought against him by journalists whom he injured with an air-gun in February and had to pay 40,000 dollars bail to stay out of jail, needing the court's permission to leave the country.

A few days later, according to his lawyers, Maradona received a cable through FIFA with an offer to make a film of his life.

Grondona was summoned to appear before Congress to explain Argentina's World Cup failure — virtually a crime in a country where soccer is, if anything, more important than politics.

ERIC WEIL

LIBERTADORES CUP

Velez the best of moderate bunch

VELEZ SARSFIELD of Buenos Aires won the Libertadores Cup for the first time this year, and brought the trophy back to Argentina after an absence of eight years.

They beat Brazil's Sao Paulo, winner in the past two seasons, on penalties.

Both teams won their respective home legs 1-0 and there was little to choose between them. But in the penalty shoot-out, Velez Sarsfield netted all five, with their goalkeeper Chilavert saving Sao Paolo's first and scoring his team's second to give Velez a psychological 2-0 lead.

They eventually won 5-3 in what was a poor final between two poor teams. The only good thing to be said for it was that both legs were incident-free.

Sao Paulo are no longer the team they were. Although still under the same coach, they do not look like a team coached by Tele Santana. A dozen leading players have been sold in recent times and this is a different team.

They are still among the leading clubs in Brazil, but having to play some 100 games a year in the various compeitions seems to have taken its toll on the players.

Velez Sarsfield won the 1992-93 season's closing championship in Argentina, but have not shown any particularly outstanding form since then. In this season's closing championship, they finished near the bottom of the table.

True, they fielded reserves in league matches once the Libertadores Cup resumed, but even before then they were struggling and, in any case, the reserves picked up at least as many points as the first team. They are, however, one of the more attacking teams in Argentina, whereas most clubs play a more defensive game.

Although Sao Paulo, as holders, had a bye into the second round, they had a slightly harder path to the final, showing from the start that this was not the same team that took the trophy two years running.

Their second-round opponents were Palmeiras, considered to be Brazil's top team at the moment. Sao Paulo caused a surprise by beating them 2-1 on aggregate.

In the quarter-finals they faced Union Espanola, Chile's second qualifier, and had to fight all the way for a 5-4 aggregate win. The semi-final was even closer, with Sao Paulo going through on penalties after a 2-2 aggregate draw with Paraguay's Olimpia, who complained bitterly about the refereeing.

Velez Sarsfield won their opening group ahead of Brazilian clubs Palmeiras and Cruzeiro, who didn't care about final positions once they had avoided bottom place.

Then Velez faced weak opponents in Uruguay's Defensor Sporting, yet only went through on penalties after two poor draws.

A 2-0 aggregate win over an even weaker team, Venezuela's Minerven, put them into the semi-finals, where they had two close matches against Colombian champions Junior before going through on penalties.

Velez Sarsfiled were not very outstanding Libertadores Cup winners, but they were especially good in the penalty shoot-outs — they scored 14 and only missed two — and have Paraguayan keeper Chilavert to thank for that. He saved four penalties in the three shoot-outs and scored three himself.

ERIC WEIL

STALIN THE TOP SCORER!

ONE curious statistic will go into the record books: of the 205 goals scored — at an average of 2.28 — in the 90 games, most were scored by Stalin Rivas of Venezuela's Minerven, possibly one of the weakest teams in the competition.

Rivas, who owes his first name to the fact that his father was a staunch Communist, finished as top scorer with seven goals.

Leading cup winners are Independiente (Argentina) (seven times), Penarol (Uruguay) (five), Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina) and Nacional (Uruguay) (three), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Santos (Brazil), Boca Juniors (Argentina) and Olimpia (Paraguay) (two) and Racing Club (Argentina), Flamengo (Brazil), Gremio (Brazil), Argentinos Juniors (Argentina), River Plate (Argentina), Nacional (Colombia), Colo Colo (Chile), Cruzeiro (Brazil) and Velez Sarsfield (Argentina) (once).

Per country: Argentina (16 times); Uruguay (eight); Brazil (seven); Paraguay (two); Colombia, Chile (one).

PARAGUAY

Sold: ONE ticket!

AS Cerro Porteno won the first round of the national championship to qualify for the title play-off and next year's Libertadores Cup, the players union started a lawsuit.

They accused five provincial clubs of having players without contracts (which is against the law). Under the circumstances the FA were about to cancel the second round and declare Cerro Porteno champions. In that case, Olimpia, four points back in second place, fielding reserve teams in the league while competing in the Libertadores Cup, would also qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup.

There was not full agreement among league officials, however, nor in the union, and finally the courts threw out the union's lawsuit which, they said, should have been brought before the start of the season.

So, after a break of three weeks, the second round began with first-round winners Cerro Porteno under a new coach.

Brazilian Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani left after a disagreement with the board — apparently because they fined him for being absent without leave — and was replaced by former Paraguayan international Gerardo Gonzalez, who had done all his coaching in Colombia.

This season's championship is being played by 20 clubs — last season's 12 First Division clubs and eight newcomers from the provinces.

Already there is talk of reorganising the tournament again for next season. On the last day of the first round only 2,270 tickets had been sold for 10 matches. One game in the provinces had a total ticket sale of just one!

BRAZIL

Start of the silly season

JUST as in the World Cup, the Brazilian First Division features 24 teams this season. And just as in the World Cup, there is a huge first round to get rid of a mere eight of them.

The first stage this year consists of four groups of six, with the top four in each group going through to the second stage. In this, there are two groups of eight.

The teams play once against each side in their own group (phase 2A) and the top two in each group make the quarter-finals. Then comes stage 2B, in which the teams play once against each side in the OTHER group. Again, the top two in each make the quarter-finals.

Should one of those four already have qualified from phase 2A — quite possible — the CBF are forced into a series of calculations which would require a special supplement to explain. That bridge, therefore, is better crossed when we come to it.

Once the last eight are decided, the competition becomes a straightforward knockout. The winning team will have played 31 games in the space of four months — and remember five clubs (Santos, Sao Paulo, Flamengo, Gremio and Cruzeiro) will be taking part in the South American Supercup which feature matches once a week.

It's a great shame that such a silly formula is used because, with clubs such as Cruzeiro, Santos, Sao Paulo, Palmeiras, Corinthians, Flamengo and Vasco da Gama involved, the tournament has all the ingredients necessary to become a great one, if only it were better organised.

The CBF also decided to go against the trend of cracking down on violence. Players are no longer suspended on their third yellow card. Instead, they pay a measly 50 dollars for each card received. Not even red cards earn automatic suspension.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

● **ON THE MOVE** ENZO FRANCESCOLI, the Uruguayan international midfielder, has returned to River Plate (Argentina) after eight years in Europe. He has signed an 18-month contract. Argentine striker Darin Scotto has gone to Rosario Central (Argentina) on a one-year loan from Necaxa (Mexico).

Other deals: Fernando Gamboa (Argentine international defender) from River Plate (Arg) to Boca Juniors (Arg) . . . Mauricio Ramos (Bolivian international midfielder) from Guabira (Bolivia) to Cruzeiro (Brazil) on one-year loan and $800,000 option to buy . . . Jose Luis Sierra (Chilean half) from Union Espanola (Chile) to Sao Paulo (Brazil) for $1.6million (subject to medical) . . . Mazinho (Brazilian World Cup midfielder) from Palmeiras (Brazil) to Valencia (Spain) on one-season loan . . . Mauricio Taricco (Argentine defender) from Argentinos Juniors to Ipswich Town (England) for reported $250,000 . . . Gustavo Quinteros (Bolivian World Cup player) from The Strongest (Bol) to San Lorenzo (Argentina) . . . Luis Cristaldo (Bolivian World Cup player) from Bolivar (Bol) to Deportivo Mandiyu (Argentina) . . . Celso Ayala (Paraguayan defender) from Olimpia (Par) to Rosario Central (Argentina) for reported $400,000 . . . Estanislao Struway (Paraguayan international) from Cerro Porteno (Par) to Racing Club (Argentina) on one-year loan for $100,000.

Enzo Francescoli . . . returning to River Plate.

● IN BOLIVIA, **the closing championship has started after labour disputes with players, ongoing since the World Cup, were finally resolved. World Cup coach Xavier Azkargorta has refused to renew his contract.**

● **IN ECUADOR**, the 20 professional clubs are said to be on the verge of bankruptcy, mainly because of low gates (which often are not enough to pay expenses) and because World Cup games on TV left spectators saturated, even though Ecuador did not reach the finals.

Yet two big Guayaquil clubs, Emelec and Barcelona, are reported to have spent over two million dollars each on new players with the assistance of rich backers.

The second stage of the championship is in progress with Deportivo Quito and Cuenca topping the two sections.

● IN CHILE, **Universidad Catolica topped the First Division by three points at the halfway stage of the season. They were unbeaten with 26 points out of a possible 30. Eternal rivals Universidad de Chile were second, but in financial difficulties.**

Universidad Catolica's greatest triumph so far this season was a 1-0 win over the other Universidad despite playing the whole second half with nine men. They then registered the season's record score three weeks later, when they beat Palestino (now managed by former Chilean international Elias Figueroa) 10-1, after being 1-1 at half-time. This topped the 8-1 by which Cobreloa beat then second-placed O'Higgins in the other surprise of the day.

Meanwhile, Universidad de Chile's Luis Guarda, who tested positive for drugs, had his contract cancelled.

ARGENTINA
National A Division — *Closing Championship (final)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	19	8	10	1	32	13	26
Huracan	19	10	5	4	24	22	25
Rosario Central	19	8	7	4	26	14	23
San Lorenzo	19	8	7	4	22	15	23
River Plate	19	7	7	5	24	14	21
Platense	19	7	7	5	28	23	21
Boca Juniors	19	6	8	5	25	19	20
Banfield	19	8	4	7	23	20	20
Belgrano Cordoba	19	6	7	6	16	17	19
Newell's Old Boys	19	7	5	7	16	18	19
Lanus	19	6	7	6	23	26	19
Racing Club	19	6	7	6	14	17	19
Argentinos Juniors	19	3	12	4	23	24	18
Dep. Espanol	19	3	11	5	13	20	17
FC Oeste	19	5	6	8	13	17	16
Estudiantes	19	5	6	8	23	29	16
Gimnasia	19	5	6	8	20	29	16
Velez Sarsfield	19	4	7	8	23	31	15
Gimnasia Tiro	19	4	6	9	15	26	14
Dep. Mandiyu	19	3	7	9	17	27	13

Lowest relegation averages (average points over last three seasons):
Newell's OB 0,921; Argentinos Jrs 0,912; Dep. Mandiyu 0,877; Estudiantes 0,850; Gimnasia y Tiro Salta 0,789 — *bottom two relegated.*

BRAZIL
National Championship — *1st stage*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group A							
Corinthians	8	4	3	1	15	10	11
Gremio	8	3	4	1	10	7	10
Flamengo	8	2	4	1	12	11	8
Sport Recife	8	2	4	1	9	13	8
Criciuma	8	1	5	2	11	8	7
Bragantino	8	1	2	5	7	15	4
Group B							
Botafogo	8	4	2	2	15	10	10
Sao Paulo	8	3	4	1	9	8	10
Portuguesa	8	2	5	1	4	2	9
Paysandu	8	3	2	3	9	11	8
Atletico Mineiro	8	2	2	4	8	10	6
Vitoria	8	0	5	3	6	10	5
Group C							
Guarani	8	5	1	2	13	5	11
Vasco da Gama	8	4	3	1	9	4	11
Santos	8	4	2	2	8	6	10
Bahia	8	2	3	3	7	11	7
Remo	8	2	1	5	4	10	5
Cruzeiro	8	1	2	5	5	10	4
Group D							
Palmeiras	8	7	1	0	18	4	15
Fluminense	8	4	1	3	11	11	9
Internacional	8	3	2	3	13	7	8
Parana	8	2	3	3	10	13	7
Uniao Sao Jose	7	2	0	5	5	12	4
Nautico	7	0	3	4	4	14	3

● *Top four teams from each group qualify for second stage.*

CHILE
First Division
After 15 of 30 games: 1) Universidad Catolica 26pts; 2) Universidad de Chile 23; 3) O'Higgins 22; 4) Colo Colo (pl.14) 18; 5) Everton 16; 6) Atacama, Antofagasta, Union Espanola, Temuco 15; 10) Cobreloa 13; 11) Osorno, La Serena 12; 13) Coquimbo, Cobresal, Palestino 10; 16) Rangers (pl. 14) 8.

COLOMBIA
First Division — *closing championship*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	18	8	7	3	27	18	23
Indep. Medellin	18	8	7	3	19	16	23
Millonarios	18	9	3	6	37	23	21
Atletico Junior	18	7	7	4	24	19	21
Deportivo Cali	18	7	6	5	27	23	20
Once Caldas	18	4	11	3	31	26	19
Pereira	18	8	2	8	27	24	18
Indep. Sante Fe	18	5	8	5	20	21	18
Quindio	18	5	7	6	24	33	17
America	18	5	6	7	24	21	16
Cucuta	18	3	10	5	20	18	16
Atletico Huila	18	5	6	7	23	27	16
Tulua	18	4	8	6	19	23	16
Envigado	18	5	6	7	25	34	16
Union Magdalena	18	5	6	7	17	26	16
Bucaramanga	18	2	8	8	14	26	12

Overall standings (top 8 qualify for final round):
1) Nacional 47pts; 2) Deportivo Cali 40; 3) Millonarios, Once Caldas 39; 5) At. Junior, Independiente Medellin 38; 7) America 37; 8) Envigado 36; 9) Independiente Santa Fe 34; 10) Cucuta 33; 11) Quindio 32; 12) At. Huila, Union Magdalena 31; 14) Pereira, Tulua 30; 16) Bucaramanga 30.

PARAGUAY
First Division — *1st round (final)*
After 19 games:
1) Cerro Porteno 31pts; 2) Olimpia 27; 3) Sport Colombia, Colegiales 26; 5) Sportivo Luqueno 25; 6) Cerro Cora Guarani 24; 8) Nacional 21; 9) 12 de Octubre, Boqueron, Presidente Hayes 20; 12) Humaita 19; 13) Cerro Porteno Este 16; 14) Libertad, River Plate 15; 16) Trinidense 14; 17) Sol de America 13; 18) Guarani Oviedo 10; 19) Pettirosi 9; 20) 8 de Diciembre 7.

PERU
National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Cristal*	19	17	0	2	61	10	36
Universitario	19	14	0	5	24	11	28
Alianza Lima	19	11	5	3	37	15	27
Ciclista Lima	19	10	4	5	35	33	24
Dep. Sipesa	19	9	4	6	26	20	22
Dep. Municipal	19	10	2	7	27	22	22
Melgar FBC	19	7	6	6	24	27	20
Leon de Huanuco	19	8	2	9	21	29	18
Aurich de Chcilayo	19	6	4	9	18	23	16
Union Minas	19	6	4	9	20	29	16
San Agustin	19	5	4	10	24	32	14
Alianza Sullana	19	6	2	11	24	37	14
Sport Boys	19	6	1	12	19	29	13
Cienciano	19	5	3	11	14	24	13
Carlos Mannucci	19	3	7	9	14	22	13
Defensor Lima	19	2	6	11	20	48	10

* *Two bonus points for winning pre-season championship.*

URUGUAY
First Division
Closing Championship
After six games:
1) Nacional, Penarol (both pl. 5) 10pts; 3) Cerro 8; 4) River Plate 7; 5) Wanderers (pl. 5) 6; 6) Defensor Sporting (pl.5), Bella Vista, Rampla Juniors 5; 9) Basanez (pl.5), Progreso 4; 11) Danubio, Liverpool 3; 13) Central Espanol (pl.5) 2.

● **IN COLOMBIA**, the city of Medellin is tops with two clubs, Nacional and Independiente, jointly leading the closing championship and the latter seven-point leaders in the overall standings, from which the top eight qualify for the final round.

Second-placed Deportivo Cali redoubled their efforts with the signing of Ruben Insua, Victor Ferreira (both Argentinians) and Chilean Richard Zambrano, all former internationals.

Spectators are slowly returning to games following World Cup failure, but antagonism against WC players continues. Two of them, Harold Lozano and Leonel Alvarez, were attacked after a League game and had to go to hospital.

● IN PERU, **Sporting Cristal continue to dominate, and have scored almost twice as many goals as anyone else — 61 in 19 games so far. After their 1-0 win over second-placed defending champions Universitario de Deportes they have an eight-point lead (which includes two bonus points for winning the pre-season tournament).**

● **IN URUGUAY**, Penarol, who lost the opening championship after having four points deducted for crowd trouble, want to make sure of the closing championship title, although they have resurging Nacional to contend with. The two teams currently share top place. Penarol have Carlos Aquilera back from Italy and he already is among the leading scorers.

Penarol fans, meanwhile, are carrying out their threat — as a protest against the disciplinary decision — to boycott away games. This is causing serious financial difficulties to the smaller clubs, who depend on home games with big clubs.

● IN VENEZUELA, **the opening championship started with 23 clubs in six groups. Three points are awarded for a win and draws are decided by shoot-Pouts, with two points to the winner and one to the loser.**

ERIC WEIL

MEXICO

Sanchez returns in style

HUGO SANCHEZ made a triumphant return to Mexican club football, scoring on his debut for Atlante in their 3-1 win over Correcaminos. The 36-year-old, who appeared in only one match at USA '94, moved to the Mexico City club despite speculation in the summer that he would join Marabella of the Spanish Second Division from Rayo Vallecano.

The arrival of Sanchez has given Atlante a big boost at the gate and raised expectations of them winning the 1994 American Airlines Cup, the CONCACAF club championship. His partnership with prolific striker Luis Miguel Salvador should give opposing defences problems all season.

Star-studded Club America had an indifferent start to the season. Luis Roberto Alves scored both goals in a promising opening day victory over Leon. One week later, though, Atlas surprised them at the Azteca, winning 1-0. Cristain Domizzi's 62nd minute strike was enough to ensure a surprise result.

Club America recently signed Cameroon international Francois Omam-Biyik to team with Alves and Zambian Kalusha Bwalya. The quality of their perfomances will dictate the duration of coach Leo Beenhakker's stay in Mexico.

EL SALVADOR

Alianza struggle

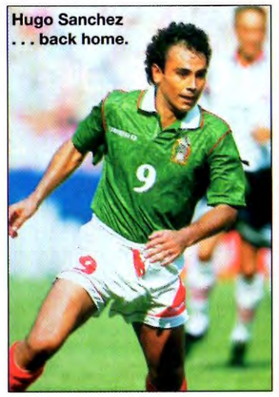
SURPRISINGLY fast starts by two unfancied teams have created an interesting opening to the league season. But defending champions Alianza have been a disappointment, struggling near the bottom of the table with only one point from three matches.

Atletico Marte currently top the table on goal difference from El Roble. But many of the favourites are not far behind.

FAS are the team to watch. The 1993-94 runners-up crushed Cojutepeque 7-1 to register their first win of the season after two draws, with Guillermo Rivera scoring a hat-trick.

The only team not to concede a goal so far has been Luis Angel Firpo. Unfortunately, they have only managed to score three times in three matches, with all three goals coming against ADET. Their goal drought is not expected to last long. Any team with Raul Diaz Arce, Raul Toro and the underrated Panamanian international Percibal Piggott will not be kept down for long.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atletico Marte	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
El Roble	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
FAS	3	1	2	0	9	3	4
Aguila	3	1	2	0	8	2	4
Luis Angel Firpo	3	1	2	0	3	0	4
ADET	3	1	1	1	5	6	3
Tiburones	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Limeno	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Alianza	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Cojutepeque	3	0	0	3	1	16	0



Hugo Sanchez . . . back home.

COSTA RICA

Alajuela hit rock bottom

WITH four matches played Herediano top the table on goal difference from three unfancied clubs: Ramonense, Perez Zeledon and San Carlos. The biggest surprise, however, is the position Alajuela themselves in — bottom place.

They are struggling to regain the form of last season, when they finished runners-up in the league. Their fans have taken note — only 2,700 turned out to watch a 1-1 draw against their main rivals and defending champions Saprissa.

One bright spot is the improving form of American Roy Lassiter, who scored Alajuela's only goal in the match against Saprissa. A very quick forward, he has surprisingly earned only one cap with the US national squad (against the CIS in 1992), despite playing in Costa Rica for over two years.

Among the other imports expected to make a big impact is Nicolas Suazo. The Honduran international has already scored three times, including two on his debut for Herediano in a 3-0 win over Sagrada Familia. The supporters have already taken an immense liking to Suazo, nicknaming him "Nicogol".

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herediano	4	3	0	1	6	1	6
Ramonense	4	3	0	1	5	3	6
Perez Zeledon	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
San Carlos	4	3	0	1	6	6	6
Puntarenas	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Saprissa	3	1	2	0	1	1	4
Turrialba	4	1	2	1	2	2	4
Belen	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Cartagines	4	0	2	2	4	6	2
Sagrada Familia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Limon	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
Alajuela	4	0	1	3	2	4	1

GUATAMALA

Municipal march on

MUNICIPAL won the Guatamalan Cup by beating Suchitepequez 3-0 at Mateo Flores Stadium in Guatamala City.

Carlos Alvarez scored the first goal after 31 minutes, and Luis Heiman added a disputed second just before half-time.

Heiman's 55th-minute header ended any hopes of a "Suchi" recovery and ensured Municipal's place in the Miller Cup, CONCACAF's tournament for Cup-winners.

AMERICAN AIRLINES CUP

Robert roll on

DESPITE losing to Jong Colombia of the Netherlands Antilles on September 17, 2-0, in the second leg of the American Airlines Cup's Caribbean Zone championship, Martinique's US Robert still managed to qualify for the competition's final round. Their 3-0 home win in the first leg ten days earlier, featuring goals from Teddy Francois-Eugene, Jean-Pierre Josmar and Nikita Capgras, was enough to ensure qualification.

Joining US Robert in the final round are Alianza of El Salvador, Mexico's Atlante and Cartagines of Costa Rica.

INTERAMERICAN CUP

Saprissa spring surprise

SAPRISSA pulled off a big upset in the first leg of the 1994 InterAmerican Cup. The Costa Rican champions beat Universidad Catolica of Chile 3-1 at Ricardo Saprissa Stadium in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The InterAmerican Cup is an annual competition between the winners of the American Airlines Cup, the CONCACAF club championship, and the Copa Libertadores, the South American club championship.

Universidad Catolica took Sao Paulo's place, after the Brazilian club decided against participation. The Chileans had finished runners-up to Sao Paulo in the 1993 South American tournament.

Saprissa shocked their more favoured opponents in the 18th minute, when Roy Meyers scored from Oscar Ramirez's pass.

Nineteen minutes into the second half, Rolando Fonseca doubled Saprissa's lead, beating international goalkeeper Patricio Toledo from a severe angle.

Universidad Catolica pulled one back through Argentinean Sergio Vazquez in the 71st minute, but Saprissa struck again eight minutes before the final whistle through substitute Javiet Wanchope to take a 3-1 lead into the second leg, which will be played in Santiago, Chile, on October 12.

1ST LEG
September 15
SAPRISSA 3 (Meyers 18, Fonseca 64, Wanchope 82)
UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA 1 (S. Vazquez 71)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,011.
Ref: P Escobar (Guatamala)

Saprissa: Lonnis; Wright, Cordero, Salazar; Quesada, Mayorga, Diaz; Ramirez, Meyers (Morera 75); Fonseca, Coronada (Wanchope 68).
Universidad Catolica: Toledo; Tupper. S. Vazquez, Lopez, Romero (Olmos 78); Gomez, Lepe, J. Vazquez, Gorosito; Acosta, Tudor (Barrera 60).

HONDURAS

Odds on Olimpia

OLIMPIA confirmed their position as Cup favourites with victories over Victoria (3-0) and Platense (2-0).

The defending champions, Real Maya, lost 2-1 to Real Espana in a game with two dismissals and five bookings.

The competition is being played in two groups of five clubs, with three points for a win, and the top two from each group will go into knockout semi-finals.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Malta eye up cup

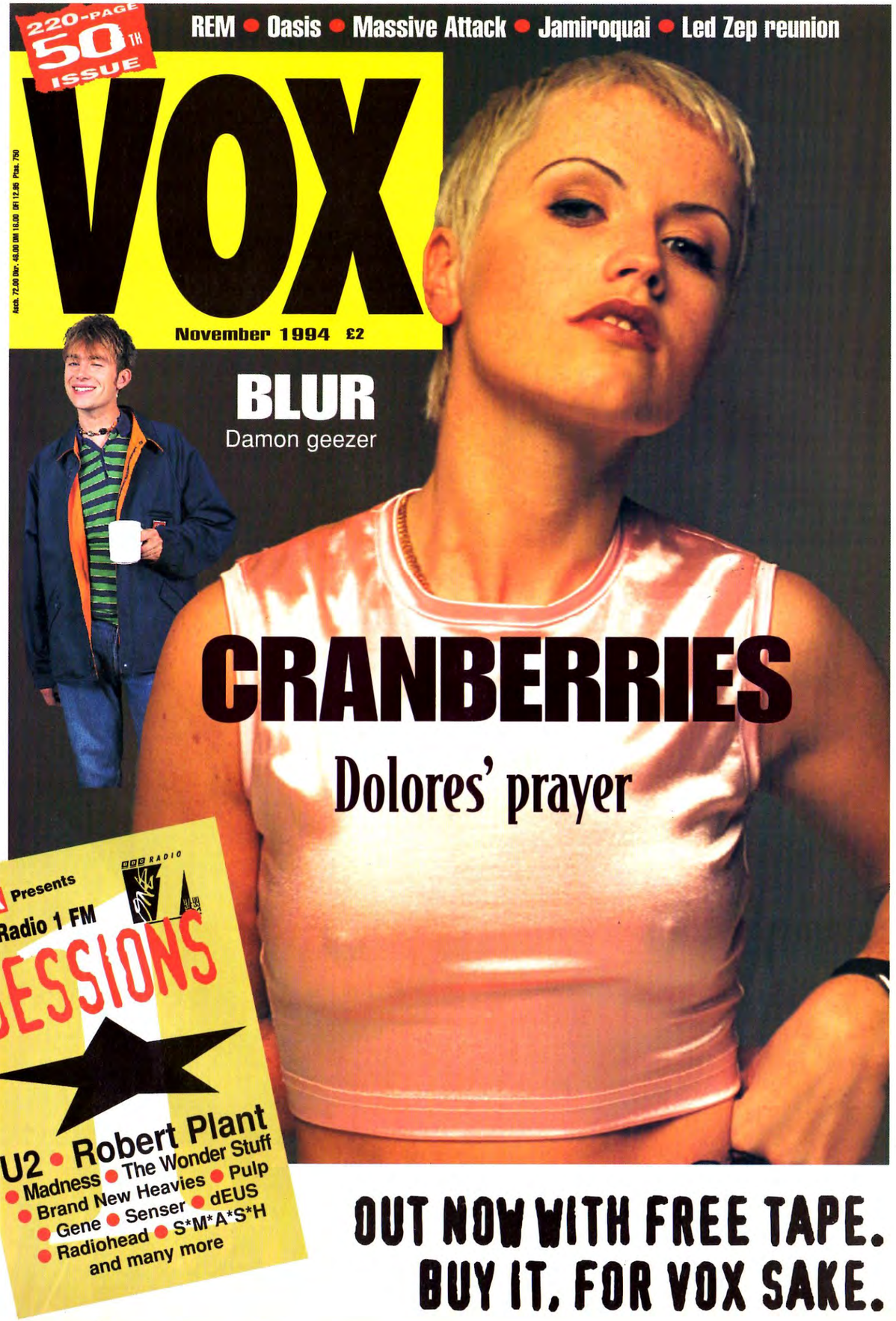
THE 1994 Trinidad & Tobago Cup started without any major surprises, but has produced one overwhelming favourite — Malta Carib Alcons. In the first two rounds, Malta knocked out Ramlogan Ball Youths and Blackpool, 6-1 and 8-1 respectively. Others to advance to the quarter-finals included Defence Force and ECM Motown. One outsider to watch is Superstar Rangers, who won, their first and second round matches against Barataria All Stars and T.J.'s Stokely Vale, both 3-0.

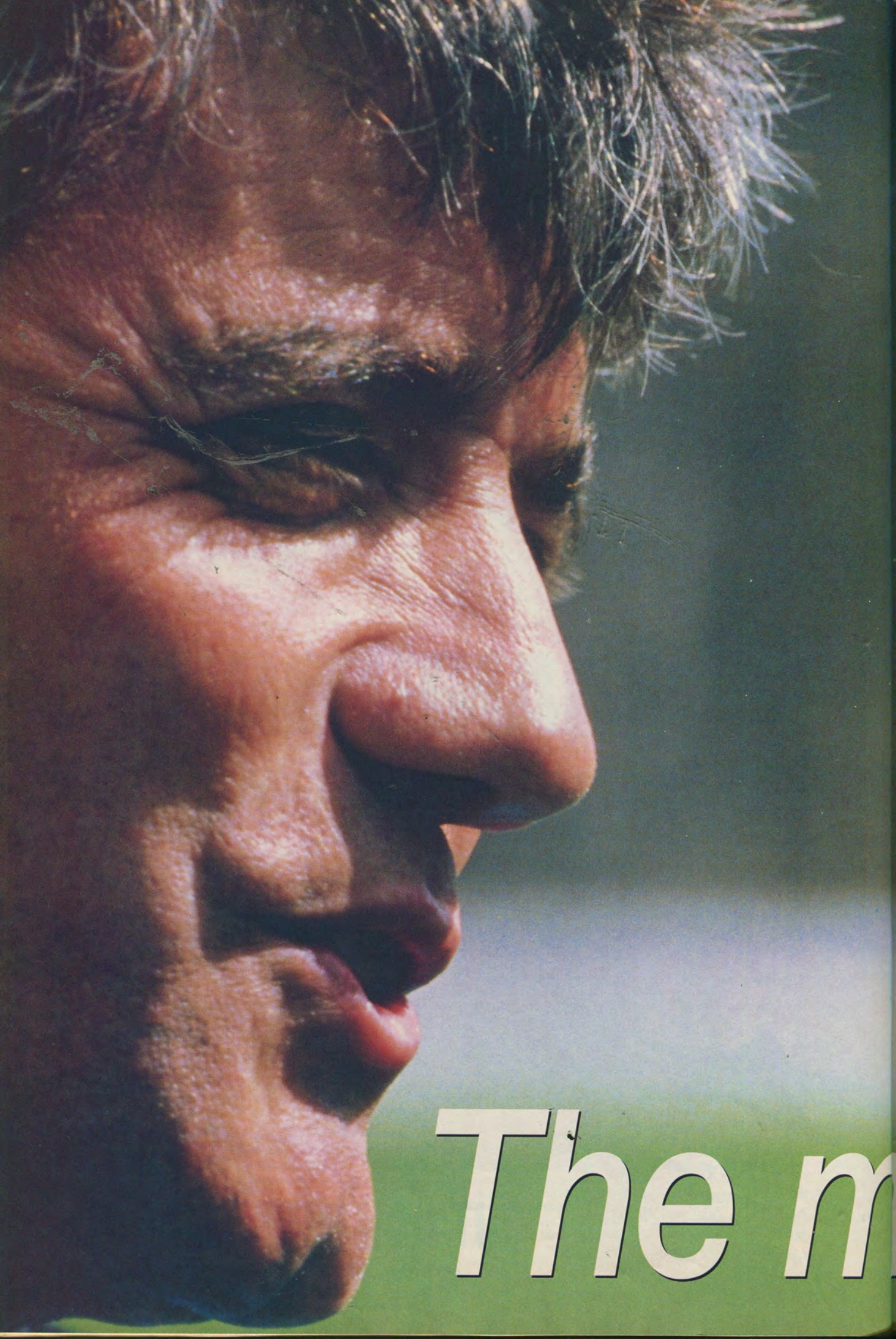
1ST ROUND
September 10
Malta Carib Alcons 6 Ramlogan Ball Youths 1
Palo Seco SC 0 Blackpool 1
Unique Valiants 0 Petrotrin PAP 1
Police 4 Young Hearts 0
Petrotrin Forest Reserve 0 Ramsingh Juventus 0
T.J.'s Stokely Vale 2 Maple 0 (forefeit)
Barataria All Stars 0 Superstar Rangers 3
Superstar Youth 1 Point Fortin CC 2
ECM Motown 3 Queen Park Club 2
Petit Bourg Survivals 0 Airport Authority 1
Caroni 1 Falcons 1
Pizzaboys Frontline 3 Rossi St Francois Nationals 2
Defence Force 2 Forest Development 0
Roxborough Lakers 3 Ramlogan Uprising Youths 0
September 14
Canning's Macoya Slammers 0 Damarie Hill 2
Memphis 1 Caledonia AIA 2

1ST ROUND REPLAYS
September 14
Ramsingh Juventus 1 Petrotrin Forest Reserve 2
Falcons 1 Caroni 0

2ND ROUND
September 17
Malta Carib Alcons 8 Blackpool 1
T.J.'s Stokely Vale 0 Superstar Rangers 3
September 18
Defence Force 1 Roxborough Lakers 0 (after extra time)
ECM Motown 2 Pizzaboys Frontline 1 (after extra time)
Point Fortin CC 0 Caledonia AIA 1 (after extra time)
Petrotrin PAP 1 Petrotrin Forest Reserve 2
Falcons 5 Damarie Hil 1

SCOTT GLEBA





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KEVIN KEEGAN was a remarkable footballer whose dedication, enthusiasm and spirit drove him to achievements way beyond those of perhaps more gifted but less committed stars.

As he was player, so he is manager. Keegan abandoned an eight-year sabbatical away from the game three years ago to take over at moribund, Third Division-bound Newcastle United. A club with a fanatical support but a modern history only of self-destructive infighting.

In his first half-season he saved Newcastle from relegation to the effective third division; in his first full season he achieved promotion to the Premiership; last term he guided Newcastle to third place and into the UEFA Cup and now . . . the sky appears to be the limit.

The north-east of England has known nothing like it since the Magpies dominated the FA Cup more than 40 years ago. Keegan's was a huge gamble. He admits that he had been out of the game for so long he did not know or recognise the managers of opposing teams. But Keegan knew exactly what he wanted — to turn Newcastle into a modern Liverpool, the club with whom Keegan knew virtually unbounded success in the 1970s.

Newcastle's chairman, Sir John Hall, has given Keegan an open chequebook to build a team to fill a stadium which is being transformed into one of the most atmospheric and — for visiting teams — intimidating of English stadia.

The security of a 10-year, £4million contract has been Keegan's reward for the work accomplished and which rules him out of the England reckoning for a long, long time. Newcastle can afford it. A new sponsorship deal with Newcastle Breweries will pump in nearly £3million over the next three years.

Keegan was twice European Footballer of the Year, a dynamic attacker with Liverpool, then Hamburg, Southampton and Newcastle. His success on the pitch was easy to define. The secret of his success in management is not such an open book. But his assistant, best mate and court jester, Terry McDermott, says: "He has tremendous belief in himself and communicates it to the players. He instills that confidence into them. He's so infectious, the players pick it up. People respond to him. He's so bubbly he makes you feel better. He doesn't have a negative thought in his head."

Amid the euphoria of winning the First Division championship, fans almost fell over themselves to spend 3,000 a time on a special club membership and telephone lines were jammed for hours on end as callers from all over the world, including Australia, showered Keegan and his team with congratulations.

Sir John Hall says: "Everything was geared first for Premier League membership. Now it's all systems go to make Newcastle one of the top three clubs in Britain and one of Europe's leading ten."

The £6.5million debt Sir John inherited on buying a controlling stake in the club has been reduced to £5million through the team's success and thriving marketing. And while Newcastle will continue to try to cut the debt, Sir John confirmed that nothing would prevent Keegan from strengthening his squad for an assault on the big league.

Entry to the Premier was worth millions from TV alone, plus the honour of Freedom of the City, which placed the club up alongside the likes of former US President Jimmy Carter and various church and civic dignitaries.

Keegan stands at the centre of the whirlwind of success — more important and more of a star still than any of his players, even England veteran Peter Beardsley or top scorer Andy Cole or imported World Cup finalists Marc Hottiger (Swiss right back) and Philippe Albert (Belgian central defender).

'Kevin has tremendous belief in himself . . . people respond to him. He's so bubbly he makes you feel better. He doesn't have a negative thought in his head'

The taste of success thus far has made him even more determined to make what he calls "one more step" — to take over from Manchester United as champions. Keegan says: "I'm under no illusions.

"The next step, although a small one, is not going to be easy. We've made giant strides. We came up running from the First Division, then we looked very much at home in the Premiership. Most of our players, in fact, looked more at home there, so we've gone from running to a really nice stride. We won't have to keep running to do the next bit. It's that one more step. It has to be our aim to go two better than we did last season.

"A lot of hard work went into finishing third and I don't think the most ardent fan of any other club would argue weweren't the third-best side. The placings were right. Manchester United were the best, Blackburn the second. We and Arsenal were very close, but I think we were the country's most entertaining side.

"We'll continue to play that way but try to add more steel and discipline needed to win the odd games when we don't hit our normal, flowing, one-touch football — and when, say, Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley are not causing major problems for defences. If we had a fault last season we didn't hang on and win games we should have won."

Mention of Cole and Beardsley makes Keegan enthuse as his old Liverpool boss, Bill Shankly, buzzed about Keegan himself.

"Andy took the Premiership by storm last season, breaking club records with 41 league and cup goals, but he can improve on what he did. He's an exceptional talent, playing with, in Peter, the perfect foil for him. They are as exciting a partnership as I've ever seen in this country. Peter himself had his highest-scoring top-division season with 24.

"Andy set his standards in our last games in the First Division. He was bought while we were top, so the pressure was on him. But he has lots of character of his own. That's why I bought him. He really wants to play and he scores tremendous goals. Not long-range ones, but his are very varied. And when a shot is parried or charged down, who does the ball go to . . . Andy Cole."

Former England captain Keegan, who summarised in the World Cup for ITV, believes he would have been watching England if Beardsley had been chosen for the qualifiers.

Keegan says: "I would love to have seen him play in America. He would have looked what he is — a terrific player. Peter got himself back into the England team. Public opinion counts for something. The public knew he should have been playing for England and Terry Venables could see what he was doing. Enthusiasm is the word which comes to mind when I think of Peter. At 33 he remains youthful. We call him Peter Pan, and he'll be just as outstanding when the European Championships are here in 1996.

"He puts so much into training that if I didn't know him, I'd be saying: 'Save something for the game.' He just goes out and enjoys it."

But while Keegan's sports patriotism is undiminished the centre of his world remains St James' Park and the dream of bringing the league championship back for the first time in 67 years. He says: "We could profit from Manchester United being in Europe. I know we're in the UEFA Cup, but for them there's the challenge of winning the European Cup so they can be compared with the great sides. The European Cup can be your biggest asset, but it can also nibble away at your squad, nibble away at the league.

"I'd say only five teams can win the title this time: the top three of last season, Arsenal and Leeds. It's not silly to put ourselves under pressure by going for the top. It's absolutely right for this particular club, with its size, players and support."

JONATHAN SHALLARD

In less than three years Kevin Keegan has transformed Newcastle United from no-hopers heading for the old Third Division into serious Premiership title contenders.

miracle man

Cole on hold

POOR Andy Cole. The Newcastle United striker has again been left out of the England squad, despite continuing his blistering scoring streak for rampant Newcastle.

Cole *(above)*, leading scorer last season with 41 goals, is the public's choice as partner to Alan Shearer in the England attack, yet he is constantly overlooked when Terry Venables announces his squads.

But, on this occasion, it seems Venables is not to blame. He claims Cole's boss, Kevin Keegan, told him that Cole was only 70 per cent fit and would be withdrawn if selected. Given these facts, it is understandable why Venables omitted him from the squad for the international with Romania.

It does not explain, however, why Cole was fit enough to play — and score — in Newcastle's two games immediately before and after the squad was announced. A curious case, but while the guessing goes on, England's loss is Romania's gain.

Cole has 12 League and Cup goals already this season, and has a staggering 65 in 68 appearances for Newcastle. As Newcastle scout Arthur Cox put it, it is not a question of if Cole will play for England, but when. His day will surely come, and if, unlike Ian Wright, he can reproduce his club form on the international stage, England could have their best attack in years.

In the meantime, the goalscoring duties against Romania fall to Shearer, Wright, Les Ferdinand and Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham, a strange choice given he has only scored twice this season and has managed to miss from the penalty spot three times in a row! Cole would certainly have been included if fit, which suggests that time may be running out for Sheringham, Ferdinand and Wright.

As well as Cole, Liverpool's Robbie Fowler and Blackburn's Chris Sutton are serious candidates for the England side, and with Venables' thoughts firmly focused on the European Championship in 1996, he may soon feel the time is right to bring in new blood.

Captain for the Romania game, in the absence of injured skipper David Platt, is Tony Adams — a player who has had his problems in the past, but is surely deserving of the honour. Adams, never spectacular but always reliable, has consistently given 100 per cent for club and country.

Also likely to feature in the starting line-up are Southampton's Matt Le Tissier and Newcastle's Robert Lee. Southampton manager Alan Ball seems able to bring the best out of Le Tissier, who has linked up well with new Saints signing Ronnie Ekelund. His creativity in midfield would be most welcome in Paul Gascoigne's continuing absence.

Lee has emerged as a key player for Newcastle this season, and looks set for an England debut against Romania. He seems to have found belief in himself, and has been in great form, scoring 11 League and Cup goals already this season.

In European club competition, English sides have made a cracking start to the campaign, with the exception of Blackburn Rovers. They lost 3-2 on aggregate to Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs in the UEFA Cup, proving yet again, that no amount of money can guarantee sucess.

No such problems for the other UEFA entrants, Newcastle and Aston Villa. Newcastle, as expected, completed their demolition job on Antwerp by winning the home leg 5-2 (with yet another Cole hat-trick), to complete a 10-2 aggregate victory over the 1993 Cup-winners Cup finalists.

Villa, though, did even better. They recovered the single-goal deficit from the first leg against holders Internazionale and then beat them on penalties. Ray Houghton, who seems to enjoy smashing the ball past Gianluca Pagliuca, repeated his World Cup trick with the only goal of an entertaining game, thus forcing extra time and then penalties.

In the Champions League, Manchester United got the same result in Istanbul against Galatasaray as they got last year, but came away smiling rather than growling. A point away to add to the two from the home victory over IFK Gothenburg leaves them top of Group A after Barcelona's shock defeat at IFK. Barca visit Old Trafford in the next phase of matches, for a game which should give some idea of United's prospects in this competition.

Both England's representatives in the Cup-winners Cup made it through to the second round without too many problems. Holders Arsenal were always going to be too strong for Omonia Nicosia, a supposition borne out by the 6-1 aggregate scoreline.

Chelsea's fate, against the Czech Republic's Viktoria Zizkov, was less clear. But Glenn Hoddle's side did themselves proud with a 4-2 win at Stamford Bridge and a 0-0 draw away, where Russian goalkeeper Dmitri Kharin was in outstanding form.

Domestically, attention has been diverted by the Coca-Cola League Cup, and a number of shock results in the second round.

Everton, bottom of the FA Premiership and without a win, reached a new low with a 3-2 home defeat by First Division Portsmouth in the first leg, and sunk even further when they could only draw 1-1 at Fratton Park.

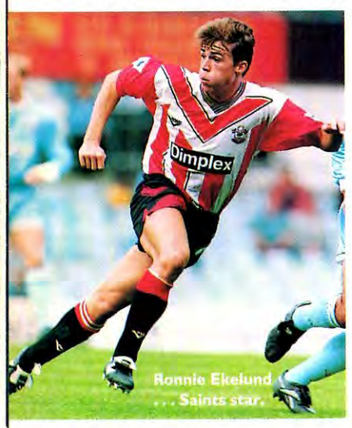
Leeds fared even worse, going out to Mansfield, currently in the bottom half of the Third Division, while Ipswich crashed 4-0 on aggregate to Cup-specialists Bolton.

Newcastle still lead the way in the FA Premiership, a 1-1 draw at home to Liverpool being the only blemish on their 100 per cent record. Blackburn, despite recent upsets, are still in second, with Nottingham Forest third.

Forest's manager, Frank Clark, has openly admitted his surprise at Forest's excellent start, but fears an injury pile-up could ruin their chances. Forest do not have the resources to run as big a squad as Manchester United, Newcastle and Blackburn.

● GOOD to see sense has prevailed in the transfer saga of Cobi Jones' on-off move to Coventry City. As reported last month, Jones was refused a work permit despite being adequately qualified. Since then, commonsense has won through, and Jones is now playing with the Sky Blues on a regular basis.

JOHN KELLY



Ronnie Ekelund . . . Saints star.

BOLI IN BOTHER

THE BOLD initiative demonstrated by Rangers manager Walter Smith in acquiring French international defender Basile Boli from Marseille appeared to rebound on him during the early stages of the season.

One controversy followed another concerning the player, overshadowing Smith's efforts to maintain his team's supremacy in Scottish football.

The main controversies emanated from articles published in two French sports magazines, *France Football* and *L'Equipe*.

Various translations of the text filtered back to Scotland, suggesting that Boli had been critical of Smith's tactical awareness, the general attitude of the Rangers players and the city of Glasgow, but after taking into account the diverse interpretations of the articles, Smith accepted that the player had been largely misquoted.

The Rangers fans were quick to accept Boli back into their affections when he scored his first goal for the club, in a League victory over Falkirk.

Smith's side now appear to have regained composure after early elimination from both the Champions League and the Coca-Cola Cup, and with teams of the calibre of Aberdeen, Dundee United and Hearts failing to take advantage of that stuttering start, now only Glasgow rivals Celtic appear to have the resources necessary to present a long-awaited challenge.

Years have passed since the Parkhead club have held such aspirations, but with the protracted boardroom animosity now a fading memory, there are signs that Tommy Burns can help project his team back into an elevated position.

Celtic, playing at Hampden Park this season while Parkhead is the subject of extensive refurbishment, have been strengthened by the £1.7million signing of midfielder Phil O'Donnell from Motherwell.

O'Donnell, who for a long time has been known as "Scotland's most promising youngster", now appears to have found a stage appropriate to his talents. He was quick to engender a lasting bond with the Celtic faithful, thanks to a dramatic two-goal debut in the team's victory over Partick Thistle.

On the international front, the Scotland team helped compensate for the generally abysmal performances of the club sides in European competition with a commendable 2-0 win over Finland in the opening European Championship qualifier.

Hardly a celebratory achievement, but victories for Scotland in competitive internationals, particularly on foreign soil, are comparatively rare nowadays.

A good run in the qualifying tournament may be sufficient to provide Scottish football with a much-needed lift.

ALAN FAIRLEY

● We would like to point out that Dundee United manager Ivan Golac is Serbian and not Croatian as stated in the October 1994 issue of *WORLD SOCCER*.

Glenn leads Glen goal glut

CHAMPIONS Linfield, consigned this season to play in the UEFA Cup, gained some compensation when they became the first Irish League team in a decade to win a European tie on the field of play.

After a 1-0 away defeat to FH of Iceland in the preliminary round first leg, goals by Gary Peebles, Stephen Beatty and Des Gorman gave the Blues a 3-1 second leg home victory and passage into the first round.

The other two European entrants, Portadown (UEFA Cup) and Bangor (Cup-winners) predictably fell against full-time opposition from Slovakia, losing respectively to Slovan Bratislava and Tatran Presov by the same aggregate score, 5-0.

Linfield are favourites to lift the League title for the third successive season, though the two teams they pipped on the last day, Portadown and Glenavon, should again give them a close run.

Glenavon have been capturing many of the early headlines, hitting 30 goals in their first eight matches, which included the preliminary Ulster Cup and Gold Cup competitions. Glenn Ferguson created a record for the Irish League when he hit four successive hat-tricks!

Glentoran also look like making a challenge under the new man in charge, Tommy Cassidy. Forward signing Donal O'Brien has been impressive in his early outings.

After six successive defeats in the opening competitive games, Ards opened their League campaign by holding Linfield 1-1 at Windsor Park. This was a sweet return for manager Roy Coyle, who won 33 trophies in 14 seasons at Linfield.

On the international front, Northern Ireland were narrowly defeated at home by the highly-rated Portugal in the European Championship, losing 2-1 after a Jimmy Quinn penalty had given them a 58th-minute equaliser.

ROY KITSON

Smith bitter

THE release of players based with English League clubs has been a thorn in the side of virtually every Welsh national team manager.

Now the problem has once more reared its ugly head. The hosting of the Finals by England seems to have caught everyone on the hop. England have no competitive matches to worry about, so no free weekends have been allocated to cover the remaining home countries' EC qualifiers.

This has caused a severe headache for manager Mike Smith as he ponders with FAW chiefs whether or not to invoke a FIFA ruling forcing cubs to release players. Teams in the English Premier League have no provision for cancellations due to international call-up and Smith does not wish to rile the big clubs by forcing them to play without their Welsh stars. Should he decide not force the issue regarding the Moldova tie, Smith will merely be postponing the inevitable, as facing a strong Bulgarian side in December without adequate pre-match squad training would be suicidal.

On the domestic scene, champions Bangor City are leading the title race with Inter Cardiff and Ton Pentre on their tails. The challenge expected of Barry Town has stumbled early on, with the much fancied side languishing in 15th place.

Other sides challenging early are Newtown, whose youth policy is now starting to reap dividends, and Afan Lido of Port Talbot, who stand with fellow past-strugglers Mold Alexandra in 6th place, a point behind Newtown.

The exit of all three Welsh clubs from European competition at the first hurdle — mostly against stronger opposition — has prompted talk of an earlier start to the season. None of the clubs had any competitive matches prior to their European ventures and it especially proved a disadvantage for Bangor City, who met an Akranes side in good mid-season form.

MEL AP IOR THOMAS

RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	8	7	1	0	25	8	22
Notam. Forest	8	6	2	0	18	7	20
Blackburn	8	5	2	1	17	5	17
Man United	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Liverpool	7	4	2	1	16	5	14
Leeds	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
Chelsea	7	4	0	3	13	10	12
Southampton	8	3	3	2	12	13	12
Norwich	8	3	3	2	5	6	12
Tottenham*	8	4	0	4	14	16	12
Man City	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Aston Villa	8	2	3	3	8	10	9
Wimbledon	8	2	3	3	6	9	9
Arsenal	8	2	2	4	8	9	8
West Ham	8	2	2	4	4	10	8
Ipswich	8	2	1	5	9	15	7
Crystal Palace	8	1	4	3	6	12	7
QPR	8	1	3	4	11	16	6
Sheffield Wed	8	1	3	4	10	17	6
Leicester	7	1	2	4	7	12	5
Coventry	7	1	2	4	6	16	5
Everton	8	0	3	5	7	18	3

** = 6pts deducted at end of season*

BELL'S SCOTTISH PREMIER

Rangers	7	5	1	1	13	5	16
Celtic	7	4	3	0	11	5	15
Hibernian	7	3	3	1	12	5	12
Falkirk	7	2	3	2	8	9	9
Motherwell	7	1	5	1	8	8	8
Aberdeen	7	1	4	2	12	12	7
Hearts	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
Dundee United	7	2	1	4	6	13	7
Kilmarnock	7	1	3	3	4	9	6
Partick	7	1	2	4	7	12	5

ENGLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

COVENTRY 0
ASTON VILLA 1 (Yorke 3). **Att:** 12,218.

CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Gordon 55)
LEEDS 2 (White 17, Whelan 63). **Att:** 13,654.

EVERTON 1 (Rideout 68)
NOTTM FOREST 2 (Hinchliffe og 24, Cooper 60). **Att:** 26,689.

IPSWICH 1 (Kiwomya 85)
TOTTENHAM 3 (Klinsmann 14, 38, Dumitrescu 28). **Att:** 22,559.

ARSENAL 0
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 37,629.

CHELSEA 3 (Peacock 4, Wise 73, Vonk og 83)
MAN CITY 0. **Att:** 21,740.

LEICESTER 1 (Gee 89)
QPR 1 (Willis og 41). **Att:** 18,695.

MAN UTD 3 (Cantona 40, McClair 81, Giggs 84)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 43,440.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 25,072.

SOUTHAMPTON 0
LIVERPOOL 2 (Fowler 21, Barnes 78). **Att:** 15,190.

WEST HAM 1 (Hutchison pen 87)
NEWCASTLE 3 (Potts og 32, Lee 35, Mathie 88). **Att:** 18,580.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

ASTON VILLA 2 (Staunton 15, Saunders 86)
IPSWICH 0. **Att:** 22,241.

BLACKBURN 3 (Shearer 17, 61 pen, Wilcox 43)
EVERTON 0. **Att:** 26,538.

LIVERPOOL 0
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 30,907.

MAN CITY 1 (Walsh 18)
CRYSTAL PALACE 1 (Dyer 31). **Att:** 19,971.

NEWCASTLE 4 (Cole 8, 66, Fox 22, Lee 54)
CHELSEA 2 (Peacock 16, Furlong 28). **Att:** 34,435.

NORWICH 0
ARSENAL 0. **Att:**17,768.

NOTTM FOREST 4 (Black 34, Bohinen 52, Pearce pen 63, Roy 84)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Hyde 56). **Att:** 33,022.

QPR 2 (Penrice 35, 37)
COVENTRY 2 (Cook 27, Dublin 85). **Att:** 11,398.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Harford 29, Willis og 45)
LEICESTER 1 (Lowe 25). **Att:** 7,683.

LEEDS UTD 2 (Wetherall 13, Deane 49)
MAN UTD 1 (Cantona 74 pen). **Att:** 39,396.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

MIDWEEK

TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 6)
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier pen 75, 89). **Att:** 22,387.

WEEKEND

COVENTRY 2 (Dublin 50, Cook pen 83)
LEEDS UTD 1 (Speed 85). **Att:** 15,389.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 12,100.

EVERTON 2 (Amokachi 10, Rideout 24)
QPR 2 (Ferdinand 5, 48). **Att:** 27,285.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Klinsmann 89)
LEICESTER 3 (Joachim 45, 90, Lowe 87). **Att:** 21,300.

MAN UTD 2 (Kanchelskis 73, McClair 75)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 43,740.

SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Watson 76)
MAN CITY 1 (Walsh 44). **Att:** 26,776.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Le Tissier pen 54)
NOTTM FOREST 1 (Collymore 43). **Att:** 14,185.

WEST HAM 1 (Cottee 87)
ASTON VILLA 0. **Att:** 18,326.

ARSENAL 2 (Adams 9, Wright 88)
NEWCASTLE 3 (Keown og 7, Beardsley pen 45, Fox 74). **Att:** 36,819.

CHELSEA 1 (Spencer 55)
BLACKBURN 2 (Johnsen og 27, Sutton 66). **Att:** 17,513.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

IPSWICH 1 (Wark 45 pen)
NORWICH 2 (Newman 11, Bradshaw 52). **Att:** 17,447.

COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — 2ND ROUND, 1ST LEG

BARNET 1 MAN CITY 0.
BLACKBURN 2 BIRMINGHAM 0.
BRISTOL CITY 0 NOTTS CO 1
CARLISLE 0 QPR 1.
CHESTERFIELD 1 WOLVES 3
EVERTON 2 PORTSMOUTH 3.
FULHAM 3 STOKE 2
HUDDERSFIELD 0 SOUTHAMPTON 1.
LINCOLN 1 CRYSTAL PALACE 0.
OXFORD 1 OLDHAM 1
READING 3 DERBY 1
SCARBOROUGH 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 4
STOCKPORT 1 SHEFFIELD UTD 5
TRANMERE 1 BRENTFORD 0
WALSALL 2 WEST HAM 1.
WIMBLEDON 2 TORQUAY 0.
WREXHAM 1 COVENTRY 2.
ASTON VILLA 5 WIGAN 0.
BRIGHTON 1 LEICESTER 0.
CHELSEA 1 BOURNEMOUTH 0.
HARTLEPOOL 0 ARSENAL 5.
IPSWICH 0 BOLTON 3.
LEEDS 0 MANSFIELD 1.
LIVERPOOL 2 BURNLEY 0.
MILLWALL 2 SUNDERLAND 1
NEWCASTLE 2 BARNSLEY 1.
NORWICH 3 SWANSEA 0.
NOTTM FOREST 2 HEREFORD 1.
PORT VALE 1 MAN UTD 2.
SHEFFIELD WED 2 BRADFORD 1.
SWINDON 1 CHARLTON 3
WATFORD 3 TOTTENHAM 6.

WEEKEND

BLACKBURN 3 (Shearer pen 18, 72, Sutton 56)
ASTON VILLA 1 (Ehiogu 90). **Att:** 22,694.

COVENTRY 1 (Dublin 2)
SOUTHAMPTON 3 (Dowie 19, 55, Ekelund 82). **Att:** 11,784.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
CHELSEA 1 (Furlong 51). **Att:** 16,030.

EVERTON 1 (Ablett 50)
LEICESTER 1 (Draper 81). **Att:** 28,003.

IPSWICH 3 (Mason 15, 43, Sedgley 80)
MAN UTD 2 (Cantona 71, Scholes 73). **Att:** 22,559.

MAN CITY 2 (Quinn 53, Rosler 62)
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 21,031.

NEWCASTLE 1 (Lee 51)
LIVERPOOL 1 (Rush 71). **Att:** 34,435.

QPR 0
WIMBLEDON 1 (Reeves 48). **Att:** 11,059.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Dumitrescu 32)
NOTTM FOREST 4 (Stone 10, Roy 53, 70, Bohinen 79). **Att:** 24,558.

WEST HAM 0
ARSENAL 2 (Adams 18, Wright 54). **Att:** 18,498.

SCOTLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Ristic 5)
MOTHERWELL 1 (Kirk 58). **Att:** 7,440.

HIBERNIAN 2 (O'Neill 1, Jackson 23)
ABERDEEN 2 (Dodds 33, Grant 74). **Att:** 9,709.

KILMARNOCK 1 (Williamson 31)
FALKIRK 1 (Cadette 69). **Att:** 8,021.

PARTICK THISTLE 1 (Grant 73)
CELTIC 2 (O'Donnell 11, 43). **Att:** 14,883.

RANGERS 3 (Hateley pen 59, 71, Durie 76)
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 41,041.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 1 (Dodds 78)
PARTICK 1 (Charnley 74). **Att:** 10,500.

CELTIC 1 (McGinlay 86)
KILMARNOCK 1 (Williamson 61). **Att:** 28,457.

FALKIRK 0
RANGERS 2 (Boli 6, Laudrup 80). **Att:** 12,500.

HEARTS 2 (Thomas 22, Frail 39)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (Nixon 47). **Att:** 8,000.

MOTHERWELL 1 (Shannon 52)
HIBERNIAN 1 (O'Neill 73). **Att:** 7,005.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA (LEAGUE) CUP — QUARTER-FINALS

ST JOHNSTONE 1 (O'Neill 49)
RAITH 3 (Dennis 19, Graham 30, Lennon 84). **Att:** 6,287.

CELTIC 1 (Collins 86)
DUNDEE UNITED 0. **Att:** 28,850.

FALKIRK 1 (McDonald 22)
ABERDEEN 4 (Booth 6, 20, 60, Rice 83 og). **Att:** 10,500.

HIBERNIAN 1 (Evans 75)
AIRDRIE 2 (Smith 18, Lawrence 31). **Att:** 9,717.

WEEKEND

ABERDEEN 2 (Booth 13, Dodds pen 81)
RANGERS 2 (Hateley 42, Moore 71). **Att:** 21,000.

CELTIC 2 (O'Donnell 12, Collins 54)
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 28,170.

DUNDEE UTD 1 (Petric 54)
FALKIRK 0. **Att:** 6,899.

HEARTS 3 (Millar 11, McLaren 19, Mackay 76)
KILMARNOCK 0. **Att:** 9,302.

PARTICK 2 (Grant 30, McDonald 46)
MOTHERWELL 2 (Davies 57, Coyne pen 78). **Att:** 5,091.

Time runs out for Rothenberg

There is plenty of talk about Major League Soccer, but very little action, says PAUL GARDNER

WORLD CUP 1994 lasted a month, crammed with football games and football excitement, football gossip and football action.

That month seemed to last all of five minutes. Then it was over, and American soccer was left with the awkward — the impossible — task of deciding what it could do for an encore.

What could be done to keep the World Cup high going? The answer was . . . not very much. Not because people didn't want to do anything, not because people didn't try, but simply because that's life. A high point is something special, it *cannot* last. By definition.

So, the American people came back down from a soccer high, back to baseball. But not for long. The long-running feud between players and owners turned nasty, communications broke down completely, and the unthinkable happened. The rest of the baseball season was cancelled. Which meant there would be no World Series in 1994.

Oh, oh, moaned the soccer dreamers, if only there were a soccer league, what a moment this would have been! Coming off all that World Cup publicity, with baseball conveniently removing itself . . . what a chance!

But no, it wouldn't have worked that way. It wasn't as though baseball left the sports scene empty. Within weeks, the NFL's American football season had started, along with ice hockey, basketball and the college football season.

That is the reality pro soccer faces in this country. A sports calendar that is already overcrowded — even when one of the main components cancels a season! And that cancellation tells you something else. Pro sports are deadly serious, big-money affairs here. There is a lot at stake in the war between the baseball owners and players.

To make any impression in the multi-million dollar world of American pro sports, soccer has to come in at the top, noisily, brashly and — of course — richly. There was a lot of talk during the World Cup about the new pro league, the MLS, that would start in April 1995 and would thrive in the wake of the tournament.

A great idea, one that FIFA is said to have insisted on. But will it work? There is still plenty of talk about the MLS, but little else.

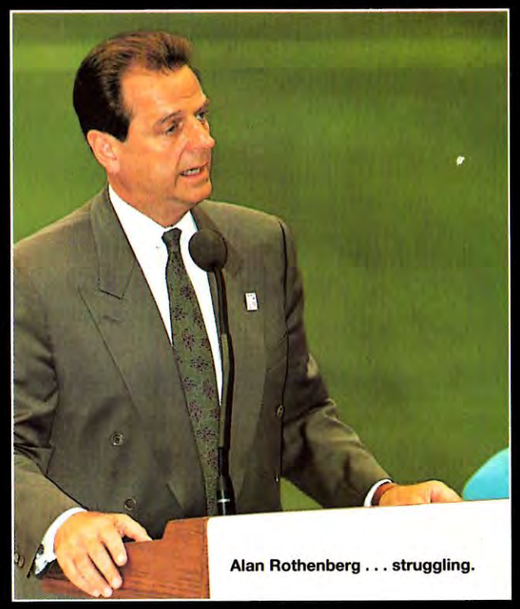
The top man, Alan Rothenberg, travels tirelessly all over the United States, trying to convince businessmen to invest in MLS. He zooms off to Japan to see if he can get the massive Dentsu conglomerate interested. And still there is no announcement about investors. Just rumours.

Lamar Hunt of Dallas, one of the pioneers of the old North American Soccer League, is supposed to be interested; so are two American Football team owners, Jerry Jones of Dallas Cowboys and Jerry Kraft of Boston Patriots. But none seems to want to take the plunge.

More rumours have it that they are unhappy with the MLS business plan, that they don't like the idea of the league office having so much power (under the "single-entity" concept, the league sign and own the contracts of the players and the coaches). Nor, it is said, are they doing backflips over the proposed annual salary of the League's Commissioner, Rothenberg: one million dollars.

The danger now is that something, anything, will be stitched together simply to prove that all the talk has not been in vain.

The MLS's actions look increasingly bizarre and desperate. For over a year it has been looking scornfully at the existing American Professional Soccer League dismissing its claim to Division I status. You're Division II, it was told — the new MLS will be Division I.



Alan Rothenberg . . . struggling.

The APSL was regarded as a minor irritant. Late last year Rothenberg and the MLS worked out that the best way to get rid of the opposition was simply to buy them. They offered the APSL $1.5million to shut up and go away. The APSL rejected the offer as insulting.

So the APSL is still around, and has gained strength. The Commissioner now is Richard Groff, the former United States Soccer Federation treasurer who went so close to defeating Rothenberg in the recent USSF presidency election.

Now the MLS, which so far has failed to produce any clubs of their own, is again looking at the APSL. This time it wants to take over the best clubs, and has invited them to join — if they have the money.

So the MLS is willing to accept teams labelled as Division II. But the over-riding aim now appears to be to show, quickly, that the MLS has some real, functioning, clubs.

There was supposed to be an MLS outfit just outside New York, on Long Island. That was one of the seven venues so proudly announced last December. The team would play in a brand new stadium. That stadium has not even been started, so in the meantime the team would play at Hofstra University, which is anything but a major league facility. Then Hofstra rejected the deal.

At that point the MLS started talking to the owners of the Long Island Roughriders, a member of USISL — a Division III league!

Can a real Division I pro league be put together in six months? A league that can enter the American pro sports scene noisily, brashly, and richly? The answer must be no. There just is not enough time.If the MLS does not happen next April, does that mean soccer's last chance for pro success has been lost? Probably not — the whispers and hints are now that April 1996 is actually a much better, more realistic, date for the launch.

Bora on the spot

BORA MILUTINOVIC has been rather nervous since the England v USA game at Wembley.

His position seems to be secure. Alan Rothenberg, whose decision it is, wants him to stay. Bora, it is said, likes the American life. But what role can he now play?

The USA do not need a World Cup coach during the next two years. They need a real national team coach, someone who will set standards and styles for the entire national team programme at all levels. Someone who will be intimately involved in the player-development aspects of the sport. Critics have difficulty imagining Milutinovic in that role.

So the rumour mills are at work again. Who would be the man for the national team job? A foreigner with vast international experience, one who speaks English (Milutinovic still insists on speaking Spanish and using a translator)?

When you've just put some $70million worth of World Cup profits into the USSF coffers, only the best will do. So the talk is of Carlos Alberto Parreira, who recently left world champions Brazil to join Valencia in Spain.

PAUL GARDNER

APSL struggles on

THE American Professional Soccer League struggles on, and after 10 weeks of the season Seattle Sounders were top, followed by Los Angeles Salsa and Montreal Impact.

Attendances varied from just over 5,000 down to the 524 who watched Toronto bet Vancouver.

US women on top

THE world champion United States women's team had little difficulty in qualifying for next year's second championship in Sweden.

The CONCACAF Women's Championship in Montreal was used as a qualifying group. The American women showed that they offer a far sterner test to opponents than their male counterparts. They destroyed Mexico 9-0, Trinidad and Tobago 11-1, and Jamaica 10-0 and Canada 6-0.

The Canadians had a similar easy passage to the finals defeating Jamaica 7-0, Mexico 6-0 and Trinidad and Tobago 5-0.

The championship attracted disappointingly small crowds, but over 2,000 showed up for the final, televised live in Canada.

The game must have opened the eyes of many first-time viewers to the high quality and entertainment value that the women's game has to offer.

COLIN JOSE

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AGE GROUPS:

SUPER:	Boys born	August 1, 1975 & later
GROUP A:	Boys born	August 1, 1975 & later
GROUP B:	Boys born	August 1, 1977 & later
GROUP C:	Boys born	August 1, 1978 & later
GROUP D:	Boys born	August 1, 1980 & later
GROUP E:	Boys born	August 1, 1982 & later
GROUP F:	Girls born	August 1, 1975 & later

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DIARY

WED 24 AUG

SWITZERLAND: FIFA suspend Diego Maradona for 15 months for his World Cup dope test failure. Maradona had already been under suspension pending punishment.

SUN 28 AUG

ITALY: Milan win the Italian Super Cup, beating Sampdoria 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw against Sampdoria. Mihajlovic scores after 35 minutes for Sampdoria, Ruud Gullit equalises after 82.
PORTUGAL: Claudio Caniggia scores a league debut goal as Benfica open their championship defence with a 2-0 win away to Uniao Madeira. Caniggia scores from a 69th-minute penalty after Isais had put Benfica ahead in the 55th minute.

MON 29 AUG

GERMANY: National coach Berti Vogts names uncapped defender Jens Nowotny of Karlsruhe and midfielder Jens Todt of Freiburg in his squad to face Russia.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA give Albania and Georgia the all-clear to compete in group seven of the European Championship after receiving the necessary guarantees over stadia, hygiene and transport in Georgia and a promise from Albania that all their players would return home after matches and not seek asylum in visited countries.

TUE 30 AUG

UNITED STATES: Coach Bora Milutinovic names his squad for the Wembley friendly against England as follows: Friedel, Sommer; Lapper, Balboa, Caligiuri, Lalas, Dooley, Klopas, Moore, Harkes, Perez, Stewart, Jones, Kerr, Sorber, Reyna, Bates, Kirovski.

WED 31 AUG

ACTION: Velez Sarsfield of Argentina break Sao Paulo's grip on the South American club cup, the Copa Libertadores. The second leg of the final, in Brazil, sees Sao Paulo win 1-0 on a 33rd-minute goal by Muller but that only squares the aggregate and Velez win the penalty shoot-out 5-3. Goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert is their hero, saving two penalties in the shoot-out and converting one himself.
BRAZIL: Santos coach Serginho is banned from the touchline for 180 after kicking the director of an opposing club in the groin. Serginho, a 1982 World Cup forward, is also charged with assault by police and released on bail.

THU 1 SEPT

ENGLAND: The FA at last and inevitably succumbs to commercial realities and seals a £14million, four-year sponsorship of the FA Cup with Littlewoods Pools. The title remains the FA Cup but, at least officially, it will gain the suffix sponsored by Littlewoods Pools. It is the biggest sponsorship for an individual competition and brings Littlewoods' investment in the game, taking into the company's Charity Shield involvement, to £20million . . . Liverpool confirm the £3.5million capture of Phil Babb *(above)*, Coventry's Irish Republic World Cup centre back.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich striker Jean-Pierre Papin undergoes knee surgery which will keep him out of France's European Championship opener against Slovakia.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA ban Minsk Dynamo player Valentin Belkevich for a year after he fails a dope test following the UEFA Cup preliminary round tie against Hibernians of Malta. However Minsk's 6-5 aggregate victory is allowed to stand.

FRI 2 SEPT

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona makes his first formal comments since his 15-month suspension was announced by FIFA. Maradona says: "Me - they killed me. I'm completely dead. It's totally unfair. There are no words to express what they have done to me. I don't know where I stand now. I can't find myself."
SWITZERLAND: AEK Athens are fined 25,000 by UEFA for the throwing of fireworks and other missiles by their fans before, during and after the Champions Cup preliminary round second leg against Rangers in Greece.

SAT 3 SEPT

PORTUGAL: Benfica sell Russian World Cup pair Valeri Kulkov and Sergei Yuran to FC Porto. The Portuguese champions are keen to relieve pressure on their overflow of foreigners.

TEAM OF THE MONTH

TRELLEBORGS

The Swedish part-timers knocked Blackburn Rovers out of the UEFA CUP

SUN 4 SEPT

ACTION: Zimbabwe thrash Lesotho 5-0, the biggest scoring win of the weekend in the African Nations qualifiers . . . Israel beat Poland 2-1 in the European Championship . . . Sampdoria thrash promoted Padova, Lalas and co, 5-0 on the opening day of the Italian season . . . Real Madrid's Zamorano scores after only 15 seconds of the new Spanish campaign against Sevilla.

MON 5 SEPT

BRAZIL: Santos president Miguel Kodja Neto criticises club director Pele for "rarely making an appearance at the club and then spending most of his time complaining."
IVORY COAST: Frenchman Pierre Pleimelding is appointed coach of the Ivory Coast national team.
ENGLAND: Ipswich signed Argentine youth international Mauricio Tarrico for 165,000 from Argentinos Juniors. He is a midfielder or striker and can play in England because, since his father is Italian, he holds an Italian and thus European Community passport.
MONROVIA: Two people are killed and 26 injured when a rail breaks at the Samuel Doe sports stadium after Liberia's 1-0 win over Togo in the African Nations Cup.

TUE 6 SEPT

ACTION: The Czech Republic beat Malta 6-1 in the European qualifiers with a hat-trick from Horst Siegl . . . Switzerland beat the UAE 1-0 in a friendly.
SPAIN: Former Spanish national coach Luis Suarez quits as coach of Albacete after only one game. He cites his reasons for leaving as personal.

WED 7 SEPT

ACTION: The heaviest-ever night of European national team football includes a near-shock as Italy struggle to hold Slovenia 1-1 in the European Championship qualifiers while title-holders Denmark are saved against Macedonia by a substitute's late equaliser . . . friendly action sees England beat a poor United States 2-0 and Germany win their first match since being deposed as World Cup holders by 1-0 in Russia.
ARGENTINA: Enzo Francescoli scores his first goal since his return to River Plate in a 2-2 draw at home to Nacional of Uruguay in the South American Supercup.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA lift the international suspension imposed on Pakistan after the PFF's general secretary withdraws a court action, in violation of FIFA statutes, in a bid to overturn his 10-year suspension by the PFF president on corruption allegations. The PFF's general assembly had since endorsed the secretary's ban.

THU 8 SEPT

ACTION: Italy are held again, drawing 1-1 with Slovenia as they open the defence of their European under-21 title . . . Santos beat Independiente 1-0 in the South American Supercup.
ENGLAND: Millwall sign Australian full-back Jason Van Blerk . . . Tottenham and England forward Darren Anderton signs a £1million boot sponsorship deal with Diadora.
ITALY: Genoa's Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura *(left)* undergoes surgery on the nose broken last Sunday in a 28th-minute collision with Franco Baresi of Milan . . . Udinese draw 2-2 with Fiorentina in a rearranged Italian Cup second round, first leg match.
SCOTLAND: Frenchman Basile Boli is to stay with Rangers after showing manager Walter Smith that reports of his criticism of Rangers in the French press were exaggerated.
UNITED STATES: Richard Groff, former US federation treasurer, is appointed commissioner of the American Professional Soccer League. Groff was beaten by Alan Rothenberg in the recent USSF presidency election. At the APSL Groff succeeds Bill Sage, who has joined the MLS.

FRI 9 SEPT

ARGENTINA: Luis Cubilla, former Uruguay international and coach, takes over as the trainer of struggling Racing Club, 27 year without a major trophy.
HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven sell Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu to Tottenham for £2.9million and Swedish midfielder Klas Ingesson *(right)* to Sheffield Wednesday for £2million.
MALAYSIA: The Asian confederation says the withdrawal of three more countries from the soccer competition at the Asian Games will enforce a new draw. Nations having withdrawn so far are Turkmenistan, Kazakstan, Mongolia, Brunei and Indonesia.

MEXICO: Miguel Mejia Baron signs a new four-year contract to stay on as coach of Mexico's national soccer team until after the 1998 World Cup. He will also take charge of the Mexican Olympic team and the under-23, under-20 and under-17 sides.
PALESTINE: Yasser Arafat kicks off the first match by a Palestinian squad against an Arab team in the Gaza Strip after 27 years of Israeli occupation. The Palestinians defeat the Qatari club, Al-Waqra, 4-1 in front of 3,000 spectators.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject a plea from Hibernians of Malta to be reinstated in the UEFA Cup after Minsk Dynamo midfielder Valentin Belkevich's positive dope test after the first leg of their preliminary round tie on August 9. The Byelerussian team had won the tie 6-5 on aggregate but Hibernians had hoped that a 3-0 forfeit victory in the first leg could have put them into the first round. However UEFA's appeals board reduces a three-match suspension on Trelleborg's Anders Palmers to one game after his expulsion in a UEFA Cup preliminary against Itrottarfelag of the Faroe Islands . . . FIFA postpones a series of training courses in Cambodia because of security concerns. The courses had been due to take place between September 14-19.

SAT 10 SEPT

ACTION: Newcastle make it five wins out of five in England, beating Chelsea 4-2 . . . French league leaders Nantes throw away a three-goal lead and have to settle for a 3-3 draw at Martigues . . . the biggest upset of German cup second round sees Eintracht Frankfurt beaten 4-3 on penalties at home by Wolfsburg following a 0-0 draw after extra time . . . Jordi Cruyff scores on his league debut for Barcelona in a 2-1 win over Santander. Ivan Zamorano scores both Real Madrid goals as the leaders defeat Logrones 2-0.

SUN 11 SEPT

ACTION: Milan, held 1-1 by Cagliari, are toppled from at least a share of the Italian league leadership for only the second time in three years . . . Manchester United lose 2-1 at Leeds, despite an Eric Cantona penalty.
BRAZIL: Rioting fans attack each other with iron bars and samba drums on the terraces and on the pitch at half-time in the 0-0 draw between Vasco da Gama and Santos. The game, at the Sao Januario stadium, is held up for 45 minutes. In the confusion, a policeman is attacked and bitten by his own dog.

MON 12 SEPT

FRANCE: Marseille and Lens decide to sue rival fans over weekend hooligan trouble. Marseille say vice-president Jean-Louis Levreau had to have his cheek stitched after being hit by a stone in a shower of missiles thrown by Parisian fans during the second division game with Red Star at Saint-Ouen. Lens warn of action against Bordeaux supporters, one of whom ran on to the pitch and punched and knocked down goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz.

TUE 13 SEPT

ACTION: The UEFA Cup first round first legs are played (all bar two ties). Newcastle score a remarkable 5-0 win in Antwerp while both Ulf Kirsten and Brazilian wonderboy Ronaldo score hat-tricks on opposite sides as Leverkusen beat PSV Eindhoven 5-4.
PORTUGAL: Benfica coach Artur Jorge undergoes surgery to remove a benign brain tumour. Surgeon Jose Sousa Filipe says he will be away from football for a month but then can resume a normal life. Assistant Zoran Filipovic takes over as caretaker for Benfica's Champions League visit to Hajduk Split.
ARGENTINA: Daniel Passarella formally signs his three-year contract as manager of the Argentine national team, replacing Alfio Basile. Passarella, according to reports, is on £6,500 per week. His assistants will include Americo Gallego, Alejandro Sabella and Hector Pitarch. Argentina's first game under Passarella will be a November 16 friendly against Chile in Santiago.

WED 14 SEPT

ACTION: Milan are beaten for the first time in three Champions League campaigns, losing 2-0 to Ajax in Amsterdam. Kiev Dynamo hit back from 2-0 to beat Moscow Spartak 3-2 in a match for which the Ukraine champions received applications for one million tickets.

JAPAN: Brazilian left-back Leonardo *(above)*, who damaged his right knee last Friday in the closing minutes of Kashima Antlers' game against Urawa Red Diamonds, is told he needs surgery and could be out of action for at least two months.

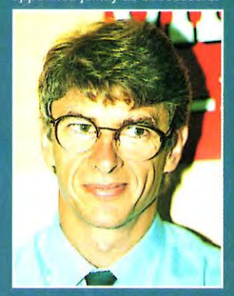
THU 15 SEPT

ACTION: Oman surprisingly beat hosts Qatar 2-0 in the six-nation Independence Cup in Doha . . . the Cup-winners Cup first round brings a 3-1 victory for holders Arsenal away to Omonia Nicosia while UEFA Cup holders Internazionale also open up with a win, by 1-0 at home to Aston Villa.
ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors officials set up a meeting with Sporting Lisbon to discuss the possible £2million purchase of the Portuguese club's Bulgarian midfielder, Krasimir Balakov *(below)*. However, Boca coach Cesar Luis Menotti warns: "Balakov is a difficult player for the Argentine transfer market because of the price."

EGYPT: The African confederation orders Gabon and Zambia, whose relations have been tense since the air crash which killed Zambia's World Cup squad last year, to go ahead as planned with two African Nations' Cup ties against each other.
ENGLAND: Everton's proposed £2.5million signing of Brazilian striker Muller falls through when the player discovers the club are not prepared to cover the tax.
ITALY: Twelve hours after playing for Milan in the Champions League, midfielder Alessandro Orlando goews to Juventus on loan in exchange for winger Paolo Di Canio.
JAPAN: Pierre Littbarski, former German World Cup-winner, says he is being released by JEF United as a result of boardroom infighting but intends staying in Japan wqhere he has received offers from three other clubs . . . Pele says he has been invited to act as a promotional consultant for Japan's bid to win host rights to the 2002 World Cup finals.

FRI 16 SEPT

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he is to begin a coaching career with his former Argentine league team Boca Juniors. Maradona, 33, is contracted as unpaid assistant to coach Cesar Menotti beginning Saturday. He says: "I always wanted to learn the coach's trade with someone like Menotti."
FRANCE: Arsene Wenger *(below)*, who guided Monaco to the Champions League semi-finals last season, is sacked after seven years in charge with the club 17th in the league after losing five of their eight games so far. Former aide Jean Petit and Jean-Luc Ettori are appointed jointly as successors.



GERMANY: Brazilian defender Julio Cesar says he is considering quitting Borussia Dortmund after being barred from a local nightclub because he is black. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld says: "This was a shameful incident, discrimination at its worst, the most bitter racism." Cesar agreed to join Dortmund only after a clause was inserted granting him the right to walk out should racist pressure arise.
GREECE: Olympiakos Piraeus coach Nikos Alefantos quits in the wake of the home defeat by Marseille in the UEFA Cup. Alefantos had been in the job only seven and a half months. Nikos Youtsos, a former Olympiakos player, takes over as interim coach.
ITALY: Roberto Baggio says he believes saturation television coverage of football is to blame for the continued fall in attendances in Italian stadia.

UNITED STATES: Ramon Mifflin, a star of Peru's 1970 World Cup quarter-finalists, is arrested by US federal marshals at his home in Florida. Mifflin had been on the run since fleeing cocaine trafficking charges in Spain seven years ago and faces an extradition application. Mifflin and three co-defendants had been charged in Madrid in 1987 with bringing 13 kilograms of cocaine into Spain. He was released on bail and fled. Mifflin had been accused of membership of an international drug-dealing organisation headed by jailed Peruvian drug boss Reynaldo Rodriguez Lopez, known as the Godfather.

SAT 17 SEPT

ACTION: Race case Brazilian Julio Cesar, despite his misgivings, does play for Borussia Dortmund in their 2-2 draw with Leverkusen . . . the Barcelona derby in Spain ends in a goalless draw.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona takes part in his first training session in his new role as aide under Cesar Menotti at Boca Juniors. He says: "It's not fair to say I'm here as adviser to Menotti. Menotti has 25 years' experience as coach. I'm here to learn. My work today consisted of practising with the defenders and shooting at the goalkeepers."
ROMANIA: Steaua Bucharest midfielder Costel Gilca scored all five goals as his side beat FC Brasov 5-0 in a Romanian league game. The 21-year-old member of Romania's 1994 World Cup squad is one short of the national record of six goals by Farul Constanta striker Marian Popa in a 6-2 win over Otelul Galati in 1992.

SUN 18 SEPT

ACTION: Newcastle win 3-2 away to Arsenal to go four points clear in England . . . French champions Paris Saint-Germain suffer a setback in a 2-0 defeat by second-placed Lyon . . . Dennis Bergkamp *(above)* is sent off for elbowing an opponent in Inter's 0-0 draw at Brescia; Ruud Gullit scores both Milan goals in their 2-1 win over Lazio; Parma maintain the only remaining 100 per cent record thanks to a 2-1 home win over Cagliari . . . Real Madrid are held 1-1 in Spain by Albacete, for whom Benito Floro — sacked as coach last season by Madrid — returns for his first game back in charge after the resignation of Luis Suarez.

MON 19 SEPT

ENGLAND: The Football League announces a new plan for extra time to try to avert penalty shootouts. Under the plan, players from both teams will be removed from the field after five-minute intervals in extra time if the score is tied after 90 minutes. The new rule, subject to approval by the Football Association, will debut in November in the newly-renamed Auto Windscreens Shield, the annual cup competition featuring teams from the second and third divisions.
FRANCE: A fan who ran on to the pitch and punched Lens goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz during the league match against Bordeaux is jailed for four months, all but a fortnight of which is suspended. He is also ordered top pay £500 in costs and compensation and banned from attending Bordeaux matches for two years.
SWITZERLAND: UEFA consider a protest by Juventus that CSKA Sofia fielded an ineligible player, two-goal Petar Mikhtarski, in a UEFA Cup tie which the Bulgarians won 3-2 . . . FIFA says South African officials have indicated in a formal letter their intentions of considering an application to host the 2006 World Cup finals.

TUE 20 SEPT

ALGERIA: Marc Ikeoju, 26, goalkeeper for top Nigerian club Iwuanyanwu Nationale, dies two days after being injured in the plane crash in the Sahara in which four other people, including one player and three crew members, died.
ARGENTINA: New national coach Daniel Passarella raises a storm when he suggests that all members of the national squad should undertake dope tests to end all speculation in future. One of the criticis and opponents is Boca coach Cesar Menotti, who says: "It's madness to make such a fuss of drug testing as if soccer was plagued by the problem."
BRAZIL: Sao Paulo forward Muller says: "the people of Everton didn't treat me very well," as he explains the breakdown of transfer talks.
ENGLAND: John Berry, 68, a survivor of Manchester United' Munich air crash in 1958, dies at his south coast home.
FRANCE: Federation officials confirm a report in *L'Equipe* that a six-week ban was imposed amid apparent secrecy on a league player who failed a dope test last season . . . a soccer ball rising like the sun over part of the globe is unveiled in Paris by Michel Platini as the official logo for the 1998 World Cup finals in France . . . Monaco are warned by Chelsea not to waste time trying to lure away Glenn Hoddle as new coach.
SWITZERLAND: FIFA demand an inquiry and threaten punitive action after reports that Real Madrid refused to release Slovak forward Peter Dubovsky for the European Championship qualifier against France.

WED 21 SEPT

FRANCE: Prime Minister Eduard Balladur delays announcement of a decision on the design of the new stadium in Paris which will host the 1998 World Cup Final.
GERMANY: Three players are sent off as defending champions Bayern Munich bounced back to form with a 3-1 league victory over local rivals 1860 Munich in front of a 60,000 crowd.
HOLLAND: Ajax drop their first league point of the season in a 1-1 draw with Roda Kerkrade.
ITALY: Milan defeat Palermo, in the Italian cup second round, just 3-2 on penalties after winning the second leg tie 1-0 and squaring the aggregate against the would-be giant-killers from Serie B . . . Inter's Dennis Bergkamp is suspended for two matches after being sent off against Brescia.
JAPAN: Former England captain Gary Lineker *(below)*, of Grampus Eight, announces that continuing injury problems will see him retire at the end of the current J.League season in November.

PORTUGAL: Supercup stalemate continues as champions Benfica and cup holders Porto draw 0-0 in the second leg of their play-off. The 1-1 aggregate means a replay is needed — away goals not counting double.
SPAIN: The Spanish federation decides it will not, after all, accept the long-standing invitation to compete in next year's Copa America.
SWEDEN: Europe's international coaches, meeting in Stockholm, suggest the game's governing bodies should consider introducing an ice-hockey-style sin bin.

THU 22 SEPT

ARGENTINA: The AFA backs new national coach Daniel Passarella's call for dope tests on all its international players.
BRAZIL: Vasco da Gama midfielder William Cesar *(below)* is banned for 20 days for failing to provide a dope test sample after the away match against Guarani at Campinas.

ITALY: Torino sack Rosario Rampanti as coach after just three games.
SPAIN: Real Madrid treasurer Mauricio Toledano says the club has debts of around £50million but "is still the country's richest." Toledano is speaking at a press conference called to scotch rumours that the club is on the verge of bankruptcy.
SWEDEN: UEFA's executive, meeting in Stockholm, decides to demand three more places for European teams at the expanded 1998 World Cup finals in France. UEFA also approves plans to provide help for clubs suffering financial problems. UEFA confirm that, with Monday the closing date for bids, the only application to host the 2000 European Championship Finals is a joint one from Holland and Belgium.

FRI 23 SEPT

FRANCE: Bastia midfielder Stephane Ziani confirms that he was the player suspended for one month last season after failing a dope test. Ziani says he traced positive on a banned substance contained in a presciption drug he has used since childhood to help him cope with asthma.
GERMANY: Denmark striker Flemming Povlsen is ruled out for six months after tearing a ligament in his right knee in Tuesday's cup-tie against Kaiserslautern . . . Bayern coach Giovanni Trapattoni rejects criticism in the German media that he is "too soft" with his players.
ITALY: Torino appoint Nedo Sonetti as coach in place of Rosarioi Rampanti, axed the day before.
JAPAN: Gordon Milne says he will quit as coach of Grampus Eight at the season's end.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH **FABRIZIO RAVANELLI**

The 25-year-old striker scored all five goals in Juventus' 5-0 UEFA CUP defeat of CSKA Sofia

DIARY

SAT 24 SEPT

ACTION: Twente Enschede go top of the Dutch league after winning 4-3 at home to Heerenveen . . . Real Madrid go back to the top in Spain after beating Bilbao 4-0. Barcelona also win 4-0, at home to Compostela, with two goals from Hristo Stoichkov in his first league game of the season.

SUN 25 SEPT

ACTION: Boca Juniors win for the first time in the Argentine championship when they beat Deportivo Espanol 3-1 . . . Feyenoord return to their De Kuip stadium for the first time since its renovation and lose 2-0 to Willem II . . . Milan lose their first game, 1-0 to Cremonese . . . Mexican World Cup forward Luis Garcia is sent off as Real Sociedad lose 2-0 at home to Valencia.

MON 26 SEPT

SWITZERLAND: UEFA confirm that, by the due deadline the only bid entered to host the 2000 European Championship finals was the joint proposal from Belgium and Holland.
UKRAINE: Kiev Dynamo coach Iosif Sabo is appointed coach of the Ukrainian national team in succession to Oleg Bazilevich, who resigned after the 2-0 home defeat by Lithuania. Sabo will retain his job as Kiev boss.

TUE 27 SEPT

ACTION: In the UEFA Cup, Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs complete the humiliation of Blackburn; Fabrizio Ravanelli scores all Juventus' five goals against CSKA Sofia; Marseille defeat Olympiakos Piraeus.
PORTUGAL: The league is thrown into turmoil by revelations that federation president Vitor Vasques lifted, unilaterally and without authority, a transfer ban on UEFA Cup contenders Maritimo.

WED 28 SEPT

ACTION: Champions League highlight is IFK Gothenburg's late recovery to beat Barcelona 2-1 in Sweden. But there is trouble in Milan, who beat Casino Salzburg 3-0 then face the prospect of losing them again because of an incident in which the Austrian goalkeeper is felled by a bottle thrown from the crowd.
ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona says he has decided to sue FIFA over his 15-month dope test ban.
SCOTLAND: Hearts defenders Graeme Hogg and Craig Levein, sent off for swapping punches during a pre-season friendly against Raith, are banned for 10 games by the SFA.
SOUTH AFRICA: Mich d'Avray, former England under-21 striker, is appointed coach of South Africa's Olympic team.

THU 29 SEPT

ACTION: UEFA Cup holders Internazionale are knocked out, beaten in a penalty shoot-out by Aston Villa.
EGYPT: The African confederation bans Zaire clubs from next year's continental club competitions for persistent bad organisation . . . Benin become the seventh country to withdraw from the 1996 African Nations Cup.
FRANCE: Jacques Glassmann, the player who blew the whistle on the Marseille bribery scandal, signs for regional amateur club Maubeuge after failing to find a new professional club after the expiry of his contract with Valenciennes.
GERMANY: Berti Vogts repeats he has no intention of quitting as Germany's national team boss.
SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil gives coach Francisco Maturana a vote of confidence.

FRI 30 SEPT

ENGLAND: Manchester United announce record profits for their double-winning season of 10.78million.
FRANCE: Aime Jacquet drops Jean-Pierre Papin and David Ginola for the European qualifier against Romania.
GERMANY: Berti Vogts names seven uncapped players in a 24-man squad for Hungary. They are Oliver Reck (Werder Bremen), Oliver Kahn (Bayern Munich) and outfield players Fredi Bobic (Stuttgart), Jens Todt (Freiburg) and Karlsruhe's Dirk Schuster, Jens Nowotny and Thorsten Fink.
ITALY: Inter's appeal aganst the two-game ban on Dennis Bergkamp is rewarded when he is cleared to play against Juventus on Sunday.
SWEDEN: Referee Leif Sundell confirms he did see a bottle of water strike Salzburg goalkeeper Konrad on the head during the Champions League tie with Milan.

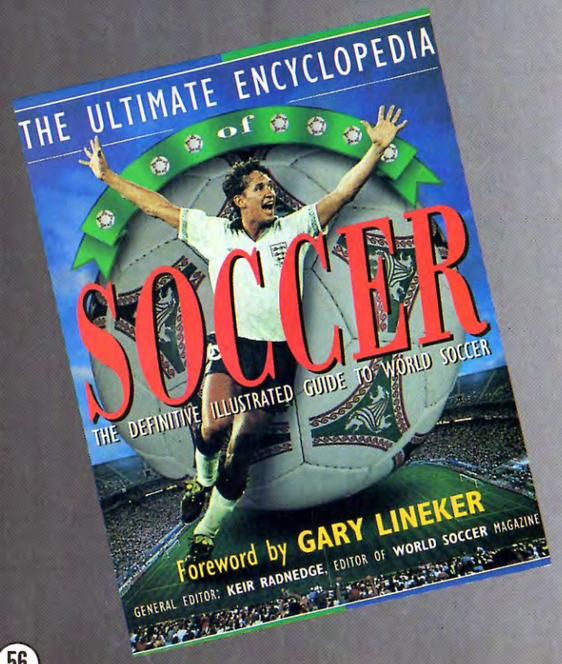
SAT 1 OCT

ACTION: Nantes again squander a decisive lead and are held 3-3 again, this time by Bordeaux . . . La Coruna beat Compostela 1-0 with Bebeto's fifth goal in three games to go top in Spain.

SUN 2 OCT

ACTION: Both Barcelona and Real Madrid lose in the Spanish league.
ITALY: Lazio agree to release German striker Thomas Doll . . . National team boss Arrigo Sacchi leaves out injury-irritated Franco Baresi and Roberto Baggio forthe European qualifier against Estonia. Uncapped players called up include Milan goalkeeper Rossi and Lazio's Roberto Rambaudi and Swiss-born midfielder Roberto Di Matteo. Squad: Pagliuca, Rossi; Apolloni, Costacurta, Favalli, Maldini, Panucci; Albertini, D Baggio, Berti, Conte, Di Matteo, Evani; Casiraghi, Lombardo, Rambaudi, Signori, Zola.

COMPETITION



We have 10 copies to give away of *The Ultimate Encylopedia of Soccer*, the most comprehensive illustrated football reference book around.

Edited by *WORLD SOCCER* editor Keir Radnedge, the book contains essential data on the beautiful game, from top teams and star players to soccer fan culture and the world's greatest stadia.

The book costs £16.99 in the shops, but we have 10 copies to give away to readers who can answer the following two questions.

1. Which club plays home matches at the Bombonera stadium?

2. Who scored a record 365 Bundesliga goals, plus 68 in internationals?

The first 10 correct entries drawn from the hat will win.
Send answers on a postcard or sealed envelope to:
Encyclopedia competition, Johanna Spencer, room 2610, *WORLD SOCCER* magazine, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.
Entries must arrive by **November 25.**

WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
European Championship
Group 1: Israel v Slovakia, Poland v Azerbaijan, Romania v Slovakia.
Group 2: Denmark v Belgium, Macedonia v Spain.
Group 3: Turkey v Iceland, Switzerland v Sweden.
Group 4: Ukraine v Slovenia.
Group 5: Malta v Czech Rep, Norway v Holland, Byelorussia v Luxembourg.
Group 6: Austria v N. Ireland, Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein.
Group 7: Moldova v Wales, Bulgaria v Georgia.
Group 8: Scotland v Faroe Islands, Greece v Finland, Russia v San Marino.
Internationals: England v Romania (Wembley), Hungary v Germany.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
UEFA Cup — 2nd round, 1st leg.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19
Champions League
Group A: IFK Gothenburg v Galatasaray, Man Utd v Barcelona.
Group B: Moscow Spartak v Bayern Munich, Kiev Dynamo v Paris SG.
Group C: Benfica v Steaua Buchsrest, Hajduk Split v Anderlecht.
Group D: Casino Austria Salzburg v Ajax, AEK Athens v Milan.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
Cup-winners Cup — 2nd round, 1st leg.

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
UEFA Cup — 2nd round, 2nd leg.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Champions League
Group A: Galatasaray v IFK Gothenburg, Barcelona v Man Utd.
Group B: Bayern Munich v Moscow Spartak, Paris SG v Kiev Dynamo.
Group C: Steaua Bucharest v Benfica, Anderlecht v Hajduk Split.
Group D: Milan v AEK Athens, Ajax v Casino Austria Salzburg.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
Cup-winners Cup — 2nd round, 2nd leg.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
European Championship
Group 1: Romania v Slovakia.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13
European Championship
Group 4: Ukraine v Estonia.
Group 6: Portugal v Austria.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
European Championship
Group 6: Liechtenstein v Latvia.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
European Championship
Group 1: Poland v France, Azerbaijan v Israel.
Group 2: Belgium v Macedonia, Spain v Denmark, Cyprus v Armenia.
Group 3: Switzerland v Iceland, Sweden v Hungary.
Group 4: Slovenia v Lithuania, Italy v Croatia.
Group 5: Byelorussia v Norway, Holland v Czech Rep.
Group 6: N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland.
Group 7: Albania v Germany, Georgia v Wales, Bulgaria v Moldova.
Group 8: Scotland v Russia, Greece v San Marino, Finland v Faroe Islands.
International: England v Nigeria (Wembley).

TELEVISION

SKY SPORTS

REGULAR PROGRAMMES - SOCCER NEWS: FRIDAY 14, 21, 28 AT 07.00, 08.15. MONDAY 17, 24 at 18.00. TUESDAY 18, 25 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00 and 22.00 WEDNESDAY 19, 26 at 07.00, 08.15, 18.00 and 22.00.

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER
15.30 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
17.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
18.00 .....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 .....ANDY GRAY'S BOOTROOM
22.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
23.00 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER
16.40 .....SCORELINES
SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER
12.00 .....GOALS ON SUNDAY
15.00 .....SUPER SUNDAY - LIVE - Ipswich v Sheffield Wed
21.30 .....SUPER SUNDAY
MONDAY 17 OCTOBER
12.30 .....SUPER SUNDAY
19.00 .....FORD MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL - LIVE
23.00 .....SOCCER NEWS
24.00 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER
12.30 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
22.15 .....THE FOOT-BALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER
10.00 .....THE FOOT-BALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER
16.15 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
22.15 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER
15.30 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
17.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
18.00 .....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 .....ANDY GRAY'S BOOTROOM
22.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
23.00 .....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER
16.40 .....SCORELINES
SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER
12.00 .....GOALS ON SUNDAY
15.00 .....FORD SUPER SUNDAY - LIVE
21.00 .....SUPER SUNDAY
MONDAY 24 OCTOBER
12.30 .....SUPER SUNDAY
19.00 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
23.00 .....SOCCER NEWS
24.00 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER
12.30 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
22.15 .....THE FOOT-BALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
WEDNESDAY 26 OCTOBER
10.00 .....THE FOOT-BALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER
18.15 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
22.15 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER
08.30 .....STRAIGHT FROM THE TRAINING GROUND
17.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
18.00 .....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 .....ANDY GRAY'S BOOTROOM
22.30 .....WORLD SOCCER MAGAZINE
23.00 .....SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER
16.40 .....SCORELINES
SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER
12.00 .....GOALS ON SUNDAY
15.00 .....FORD SUPER SUNDAY - LIVE - Wimbledon v Norwich
21.30 .....SUPER SUNDAY
MONDAY 31 OCTOBER
24.00 .....MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

EUROSPORT

REGULAR PROGRAMMES: EUROGOALS - Monday 3, 10,17 at 23.00. Monday 24, 31 at 22.00.

SUNDAY 2 OCTOBER
22.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
MONDAY 3 OCTOBER
17.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER
11.30 .....EUROGOALS
14.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
21.00 .....EUROGOALS
SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER
23.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
MONDAY 10 OCTOBER
17.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER
12.00 .....EUROGOALS
13.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
18.00 .....EUROGOALS
WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER
23.00 .....1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS
THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER
12.00 .....1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS
22.00 .....1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS
FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER
12.00 .....1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS
14.00 .....1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUNDS
SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER
23.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
MONDAY 17 OCTOBER
17.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER
12.00 .....EUROGOALS
13.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
17.30 .....CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
18.00 .....EUROGOALS
23.00 .....UEFA CUP
WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER
12.00 .....UEFA CUP
THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER
22.00 .....EUROPEAN CUPS
23.30 .....CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER
12.00 .....EUROPEAN CUPS
SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER
21.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
MONDAY 24 OCTOBER
16.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
TUESDAY 25 OCTOBER
11.00 .....EUROGOALS
12.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
17.00 .....EUROGOALS
SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER
21.00 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL
MONDAY 31 OCTOBER
16.30 .....SAMBA FOOTBALL

X-WORD

LAST MONTH'S WINNER:
IVAN HARRIS, OF PERTH.

LAST MONTH'S SOLUTION
Across: 1 Branco, 3 Owls, 7 Albertini, 9 Choi, 10 Albert, 12 Rincon, 13 Zico, 16 Bishovets, 17 Abel, 18 Koeman.
Down: 1 Blanc, 2 Cork, 4 Whiteside, 5 Start, 6 Viola, 8 Bjornebye, 11 Sousa, 12 Rimba, 14 Olsen, 15 Voro.

Compiled by Christine Ansell

NOVEMBER

WIN

lotto

A Lotto Football - for the first correct entry. Fill in this month's crossword and send it, by November 16, to:
***WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD* (NOVEMBER)**
King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS

ACROSS
1 .....Swiss full-back in Keegan's Newcastle squad (8)
6 .....Ex-Yugoslavia coach with Panathinaikos, 1992-94 (4)
7 .....Italian midfield star transferred from Juventus to Parma (6)
9 .....Former European Footballer of the Year in charge at Albacete (6)
10.....Caldas Manizales defender in Colombia's '94 World Cup squad (5)
11.....Norwegian champions, 1978 and 1980 (5)
14.....Young Nigerian midfielder in Holland with Ajax (6)
16.....Marc . . . . . Foe, teenage Cameroon midfield man (6)
17 and 2 Down . . . Nigerian international defender in Belgium, Morocco and with Hanover (4,6)
18.....Bulgarian defender who joined Levski from Etar in '93 (8)

DOWN
2 .....See 17 across
3 .....Manager of Switzerland's Grasshopper Zurich (5)
4 .....Spartak coach who followed Sadyrin into the Russian hot seat (9)
5 .....Ex-Wimbledon midfielder of Chelsea and England (4)
8 .....Nelson, Uruguayan in Italy with Lazio and Verona (9)
12.....Paraguayan voted South America's Footballer of the Year, 1985 (6)
13.....Late Leeds United manager who served as England boss (5)
15.....Home of Luxembourg's Jeunesse (4)

NAME _____

ADRESS _____

_____

_____

POSTCODE _____

CHINA

Schlappner steps down

QI WUSHENG has taken over from German Klaus Schlappner as chief coach of the Chinese national team. Schlappner will stay on in his position until the end of the Asian Games, despite the appointment of Qi Wusheng as acting coach in April.

Expectations of Schlappner were high but China were beaten by Yemen and Iraq in their World Cup qualifying group and missed the chance to go to USA '94. In the Thai King's Cup earlier this year, China, the defending champions, failed to qualify for the semi-finals and were accused of fixing matches.

Schlappner's problems were compounded when two thirds of the internationals coached by him failed the physical fitness tests held this year by the CFA, with some losing the chance to play in the domestic league.

"He is unable to understand the Chinese footballers' characters. It is difficult for Chinese footballers to adapt to German ideas," said Yuan Weimin, president of the CFA.

With 18 matches of the season completed, Dalian top the table. Shanghai led the division for the first six weeks of the season but have slipped back following heavy defeats by Beijing (5-1) and Guangzou (6-1).

Liaoning have won nine of their last 12 matches, including crushing victories over Guangzou (5-0), Sichuan (6-3) and Jiangsu (5-1), and moved from eighth to third place.

Guangzou began the season without six top players, who failed the CFA's pre-season physical fitness tests, but have climbed to second place and, like Dalian, have a good chance of winning their first title.

ZHENG MING

Klaus Schlappner . . . moving on.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dalian	18	11	4	3	37	19	26
Guangzhou	18	10	4	4	30	22	24
Liaoning	18	10	3	5	41	26	23
Shanghai	18	8	4	6	31	34	20
Sichuan	18	7	5	6	23	18	19
Guangdong	18	6	6	6	21	17	18
Beijing	18	6	5	7	35	29	17
Jilin	18	5	7	6	24	26	17
Shandong	18	7	3	8	16	20	17
August First	18	4	8	6	10	15	16
Shenyang	18	1	8	9	14	31	10
Jiangsu	18	1	7	10	11	36	9

TOP SCORERS

1.....Hu Zhijun (Guangzhou).....14
2.....Li Bin (Liaoning).....10
Wang Tao (Dalian).....10

QATAR INDEPENDENCE CUP

Mahajerani masterminds Oman victory

HASHMAT MAHAJERANI, the Iranian 1978 World Cup coach, saw his well-prepared Oman national team win the Qatar Independence Cup tournament.

In the evenly-fought final against hosts Qatar in Doha's Khalifa Stadium, Oman won 2-1. Hamdan put Oman ahead in the 14th minute with a vicious long range drive. Against the run of play, Masud Hasan beat Omani keeper Juma Saleh for the first time in the tournament with an equally fierce left foot drive from 30 yards to equalise for Qatar afterr 28 minutes. Fifteen minutes from the time Salif Shaban scored the decider with a brilliant run and excellent finish.

Despite civil war at home, the young Yemini side secured third position defeating India 2-0 in the third place play-off.

BANGLADESH

Refs to the rescue

Riots followed Mohammedans' draw with lowly-ranked Public Works Department (PWD) and defeat by Brothers Union. Government and public properties were damaged and several fans injured in riots near the downtown Dhaka National Stadium.

The violence prompted the league committee to invite three Malaysian officials to conduct the crucial last match of the first Dhaka Premier Division between Mohammedans and arch rivals Abahani. The good-mannered match ended in a 1-1 draw. There was no after-match violence.

AZAM MAHMOOD

MOHUN BAGAN of Calcutta scored

INDIA

Bagan's dozen

12 goals in two matches while qualifying for the second round of the 14th Asian Club Championship.

After beating Valencia of Maldives 7-1 they defeated Ratnam SC of Sri Lanka 5-1. Valencia also went through to the second round after a 2-1 victory against Ratnam.

All three matches were played at Calcutta's Salt Lake Stadium.

In the Asian Cup-winners Cup, Renown SC of Sri Lanka and East Bengal of Calcutta reached the second round from the qualifying group played in Colombo.

G C DAS

THE case against Czech striker Michal

SINGAPORE

Match-fixing case adjourned

Vana — who faces six counts of corruption — has been adjourned until mid-October.

Vana is charged with passing over $150,000 to opposing team players during six recent games. He allegedly received $200,000 from a prominent Singapore bookmaker.

Vana denied the charges and was released on $500,000 bail.

THE humble $500 a month players

THAILAND

Farmers reap reward

from Asian club champs Thai Farmers won another feather in their cup when they beat African club champions Zamalek in the annual Afro-Asian Club Championships.

Thai Farmers won on the away-goals rule after Zamalek won the first leg at home 2-1 with the Farmers winning the second 1-0. They are only the second Asian club to win the title.

THE Vietnamese Football Association

VIETNAM

FA pleads poverty

says it is seeking government cash to help pay for the $15,000 monthly salary demanded by former German coach Karl Weigang.

Weigang — who is touring Vietnam on assignment with FIFA — is being eyed by local football authorities as the best man to prepare the country's national team for the upcoming South East Asian Games to be held next year in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

ASIA's two re-launched regional club

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION

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CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Competition stronger than ever

tournaments are proceeding at a cracking pace but there have been precious few surprises so far.

Korean giants Ilhwa Chunma had little trouble despatching Malaysia's double-winning side Kedah 10-4 on aggregate in the first round of the Asian Club Championships, while in another high-scoring game Hong Kong's Eastern thumped Brunei's Kota Ranger 12-2 on aggregate.

In the Asian Cup-winners Cup defending champions Al Qadisiyah of Saudi Arabia survived a tough series against Oman's Aruba club, eventually winning 2-1 on aggregate.

The only disruptions to the schedule have been the withdrawal of both Yemeni clubs becaise of the civil war.

ORGANISERS of this month's Asian

ASIAN GAMES

Late withdrawals hit Games

Games were dealt another major blow when five countries withdrew from the football competition, forcing organisers to entirely re-draw the tournament. Kazakhstan, Brunei, Mongolia, India and Indonesia pulled out of the tournament having originally submitted their names for the June 1 draw.

It wasn't a total loss for organisers: Malaysia and newcomers Palestine agreed to step in as replacements.

Earlier organisers were dismayed to hear Saudi Arabia was sending only its U-23 Olympic squad.Saudi officials defended their snub saying its World Cup stars deserved to be rested.

Group A: Iran (defending champs), Yemen, Bahrain, Turkmenistan, China.
Group B: Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan.
Group C: South Korea, Kuwait, Oman, Nepal, Palestine.
Group D: Japan, Burma, United Arab Emirates, Qatar.

SOUTH KOREA

Kuwaiti prince tips Korea

INFLUENTIAL Kuwaiti Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad, who heads the Olympia Council of Asia, has said South Korea lead Japan in the race to host the 2002 World Cup.

"South Korea were latecomers but a couple of things have worked in their favour," said the Sheikh. "They beat Japan for the FIFA vice-presidency and their team did well in the World Cup."

PAKISTAN

FIFA drops ban

FIFA has dropped its indefinite suspension of Pakistan after the Pakistan Football Federation suspended its general secretary, so ending a painful internal dispute.

Hafiz Salman Butt was suspended from football for 10 years after the PFF found him guilty of embezzlement and misconduct. Pakistan had been banned from international competition by the Asian Football Confederation after mounting squabbling within the Pakistan football administration.

"We hope that Pakistan can now resume an active role in Asian football," said AFC general secretary Peter Velappan.

CHARLIE CHARTERS

JORDAN

Record-breaking Al Faysali

AL FAYSALI have achieved a record second league and Cup double. They won the 1993/94 league championship, for a record 26th time with 31 points from 18 games, five ahead of runners-up Al Ramtha. Twenty two year-old international Jeris Tadros was the league's top scorer, netting 19 times in 32 games.

They also defeated Al Ramtha 2-0 in the 1993/94 FA Cup Final. Jeries Tadros broke the deadlock after 15 minutes, international midfielder Jihad Abdulmonhem secured his side's victory three minutes from time.

SAUDI ARABIA

Al Nasr stick with French

REIGNING league champs, Al Nasr, look set on the French way. Former Marseille manager Jean Fernandez brought them the league title last season, and they recently appointed former France and Cameroon manager, Henri Michel, who came to Riyadh with Senegal central defender Roger Mendy, formerly with French sides Toulon and Monaco and Italian club, Pescara.

Al Shabab have appointed Russian Youri Sebastianov, last season's coach of Morocco's Olympique Casablanca, and signed 1994 Morocco's World Cup captain Rashid Dawoodi.

Al Ittihad of Jeddah will be coached by fomer Chelseas boss Ian Porterfield, who recently resigned as manager of Zambia.

MOHAMED CHBARO

OCEANIA

FIJI

Ba threatens breakaway league

FIJIAN soccer is never short of conflict, but the latest example of discord threatens to be more polarising than anything in the past.

The source of the strife is this season's Battle of the Giants final between Ba and Rewa.

The game itself, held at neutral Nadi, was a tame goalless draw and matters only became tempestuous when the Fiji Football Association announced that the replay would be played on Rewa's home ground. Enraged Ba officials immediately announced their team would boycott it.

They were true to their heated words and Rewa had to go through the motions of lining up on the pitch in front of 1500 fans and wait for the referee to award them the game through Ba's non-appearance. It was a most unsatisfactory way for Rewa to win their first major honour since 1955.

Ba continued their protest by refusing to fulfil Fijian League fixtures and are attempting to form a breakaway competition.

That Ba's president is an influential member of the government gives the FFA cause for concern.

AUSTRALIA

Aussies go Japanese

IN its latest attempt to increase attendances, the Australian national league has followed the example of Japan's successful J.League and eliminated drawn games.

Now, teams level after "regulation time" will be required to participate in a penalty shoot-out to produce a winner.

Sides victorious over 90 minutes will receive four points, while those needing spot kicks to settle the match will be rewarded with two points and losers of penalty shoot-outs are to get one point.

Meanwhile, there will be no chances in the 1994-95 league's membership — The 14 clubs involved last season have all retained their places.

TONGA

Navutoka are tops

AN 80th minute goal by Navutoka captain Uame Toluta'u gave his side a 1-0 win over Ngele'ia in the final of Tongau's most prestigious competition, the Coca-Cola Trophy.

The rugby-obsessed kingdom's leading newspaper, *The Tonga Chronicle*, provided a reflection of soccer's place in the national consciousness when it mistakenly referred to Toluta'u's winning effort as "the game's only try"!

POLICE captured Solomon Islands

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Police in charge

club soccer's most coveted prize when defeating Kakamora 2-1 in the Honiara Super League Grand Final.

Two first half strikes by George Kiriau put Police firmly in control and Eddie Kato ended the game as a contest early in the second period. Justice Kuluta scored Kakamor's late consolation goal.

AN opportunistic goal by former

NEW ZEALAND

Barkley bite wins cup for City

Northern Ireland youth international Noel Barkley, five minutes into the second half, gave Waitakere City a 1-0 victory over Wellington Olympia in the 1994 Chatham Cup final and kept alive their hopes of a Cup-Championship double.

In a match in which both sides had many scoring opportunities which they failed to convert, the 33-year-old striker collected a long through ball which had eluded two Olympia defenders, and drilled his shot past goalkeeper Paul Kotrotsos.

Coached by Keith Pritchett, a defender with Watford during their Graham Taylor-Elton John era, City also have the inside running as the Winfield Superclub Championship, New Zealand domestic soccer's other major competition, approaches its play-off phase.

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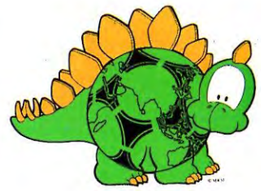

J.LEAGUE

MIKE PLASTOW and MICHI ISHIJIMA report on ASIA's No.1 League

Lineker's legacy

Gary Lineker's four goals have cost Nagoya Grampus Eight a staggering $1.75million each. Much was expected of him in the J.League but injuries have finally forced him to call it a day at the age of 33

Gary Lineker . . . all played out.

GARY LINEKER announced at a press conference on September 21 that he will retire at the end of the J.League's second stage. The conference followed Nagoya Grampus Eight's 4-1 home victory over Jubilo Iwata, a game in which the injured Lineker took no part.

Lineker has been troubled by injury ever since arriving in Japan for the start of the J.League. First, he had to recover from an operation on his old toe injury. Then he broke another toe bone. When that recovered, his old toe injury came back to haunt him, together with muscle strains.

"I was worried that I would have to retire many times over the last year", said Lineker, "really because of injury. I was just relieved and pleased that I was able to get back on the field, maybe not as strong as before, but at least I was able to do something."

Lineker's time in Japan has not been the success that he or anyone else had hoped for. He was brought in as a figurehead for the soccer boom and the new Nagoya club. He was the J.League's highest-paid player. But he only managed a handful of appearances and goals: one goal in seven league appearances in the J.League's first season, and three goals in eight outings so far this year.

Despite that, he remains hugely popular with the Nagoya fans. His gentlemanly image has done a lot for the sport in Japan.

Things finally began to look right on as well as off the pitch with the start of this year's second stage. There were flashes of the old Lineker, and he scored with two lovely shots against Verdy, though one, a header from a well-timed run, was wrongly disallowed for offside.

Lineker missed the next match, then played his final game before announcing his retirement against Shimizu S Pulse on September 14. But he might be back for a few matches yet. He intends to take part in Nagoya's Australian camp during the Asian Games. Grampus then have 10 league matches remaining between October 22 and November 19. If Lineker recovers his fitness his last match may be against Sanfrecce Hiroshima on November 19 at Mizuho Stadium in Nagoya.

Lineker never did become the figurehead that was hoped. That may be a good thing, for the J.League will not be much affected by his departure. Despite his personal disappointments, Lineker went out on a positive note.

"I feel very happy," said Lineker, "to have been part of a very successful J.League. The enthusiasm of the fans has been incredible and it was an honour for me to be involved at the beginning of something so successful. I'd like to thank many people: first of all the people of Japan and especially Nagoya for their tremendous support, understanding and patience."

"I want to stay involved in the game somehow, but certainly not as a coach or manager. That doesn't appeal. I don't think I'm the type and I wouldn't be any good at it either."

"I think my ambitions are certainly, in the near future, towards the media side of the game — TV or possibly the radio, or perhaps writing a little a bit, something I've started to do recently."

Lineker has since been signed up by *The Observer* as a columnist and will be writing regularly for the paper from January next year. He is also expected to work as a TV pundit for the BBC.

Two days after Lineker's announcement, it was Gordon Milne's turn to announce his retirement from Grampus Eight. The club had clearly improved during his short tenure. Passing is now faster, more accurate and more intelligent, and the midfield especially has grown in both firmness sharpness. But besides his work with the team, Milne also had to contend with the often hostile Nagoya press, which never did understand his methods or the need for time to achieve results.

"I've always felt that Grampus is close to having a successful football club," said Milne. "And I hope the players believe that. There is still time after the break to have a good end to the season."

Two other trademark faces will also be missing from the J.League next year: Pierre Littbarski and Kunishige Kamamoto. JEF United Ichihara say Littbarski has fulfilled his role and the time has come to move on. Littbarski wants to stay in Japan if possible, either as player or coach, but will have to find a new club.

Kamamoto was the Gary Lineker of Japan from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. Pele played in his final match for Yanmar Diesel. But life as manager of Gamba Osaka has not been easy. He conducted a clearout of players before the season began, only to see Gamba fall to the bottom of the table.

SANFECCE'S NIGHTMARE

SANFRECCE's bubble burst after four straight wins in the J. League's second stage with a 6-1 home drubbing by Bellmare Hiratsuka.

Nothing went right on the night. Injuries to three key players — defensive midfielder Tomohiro Katanosaka and forwards Takuya Takagi and Ivan Hasek in the first half hour — left the Hiroshima team with no substitutes and a man short. Four second-half goals in 15 minutes then sent the first stage champions crashing.

The injured were slow to recover. Hasek missed the next five matches, and with Tore Pederson also gone, called up for national team duty with Norway, Sanfrecce's form disappeared.

"All of our players are feeling the effects of the long season," said Sanfrecce manager Stuart Baxter after the 3-0 defeat to Yokohama Marinos. "The motivation has been very good, but the time has come to start thinking of resting some senior players. They need a mental rest. We have the risk of being burnt out."

Other clubs are also feeling the wear and tear. Salvatore Schillaci of Jubilo Iwata and Leonardo of Kashima Antlers have both suffered leg injuries and returned home for treatment. Leonardo was felled by a heavy tackle in the dying moments of the match with Urawa Red Diamonds, in which he had earlier scored twice. He will probably be out for three months.

But not all news from Hiratsuka is bad. One young man very much in form is 22-year-old Bentinho of Verdy Kawasaki. The tall youngster had a hard act to follow when brought in to replace Kazuyoshi Miura. He has answered critics by scoring at a rate of roughly a goal a game. His present tally is 11 goals in 12 matches.

Bellmare's strike for the top

WHILE Verdy Kawasaki maintain their steady bid for the J.League's second stage title, the surprise challenge has come from the surfing town of Hiratsuka. Bellmare were second in the table as the league broke off for the Asian Games.

The league's new boys wound up second from bottom in the first stage in June but fully deserve their current high position. They have played fast, purposeful, attacking soccer, and scored plenty of goals, including six against first stage champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

Goals are nothing new at Hiratsuka. Bellmare conceded 54 in 22 first stage games. But now the shots are going in at the right end. It all seems a world away from the 5-1 crushing by Verdy Kawasaki in the J. League opener on March 12. That defeat was avenged by a 2-1 win over Verdy in the opening match of the second stage.

The change is symbolised by national team manager Falcao's choice of three young Bellmare players for the Asian Games squad: Teruo Iwamoto, Yoshihiro Natsuka and 22-year-old right full-back Akira Narahashi.

Natsuka is a stopper reminiscent of Masami Ihara, whom he joins at the centre of the national team's defence. He is Bellmare's captain, a tight marker with sound positioning sense, who can also bring the ball forward to good effect. His place as a national team regular seems assured.

Iwamoto played left full-back for Bellmare in the first stage, and also for the national team in the Kirin Cup. He is an extraordinarily goal-hungry player, who likes to wander, if allowed, all over the pitch. He is also the corner and free kick specialist.

Narahaski is Iwamoto's mirror-image on the right. It was common in the first stage to see both overlapping at once.

While opponents found it hard to cover Iwamoto and Narahashi in the first stage, Bellmare struggled to plug the gaps in their wake. Falcao showed the way by moving Iwamoto to midfield in the national team. Bellmare have followed suit, and the team's balance has improved overnight.

Almir . . . Bellmare's boy from Brazil.

In defence, 27-year-old Hiroaki Kumon has taken over the left side. Iwamoto now covers less of the field, and can save his energy for the lightning acceleration that catches defences off-guard. Kumon himself is far from passive. He also overlaps, and his long throw is virtually a kick-in.

The other central defender is tall 22-year-old Taku Watanabe. He joins the attack, too, as a target man at throw-ins and corners. Rear midfield is held by level-headed 23-year-old Kazuaki Tasaka. And there is also 19-year-old midfielder Teppei Nishiyama, who scored his first goal against Gamba Osaka. The emphasis is very much on youth.

Manager Mitsuru Komaeda has been rebuilding since taking over in 1990, when Fujita, the team which became Bellmare, had just dropped to the Second Division of the old Japan Soccer League. The aim was fast, attacking football. He found a fellow spirit in Brazilian head coach Nicanor, who joined the club in 1991.

Experience on the field is provided by the Brazilians. Edson, now in Japan for nearly a decade with Yomiura and Fujita, is the pillar of central midfield. Betinho, signed from Cruzeiro, plays near the top, just behind 24-year-old Japanese centre-forward Koji Noguchi. 25-year-old Almir, a player with full national team experience for Brazil, adds extra flair up front.

Other factors in Bellmare's success include Betinho's return from injury and Almir's belated adjustment to the Bellmare style. The young team still look flustered at the furious pace at which they play and the defence does too much holding at corners and free kicks. But Bellmare are always fun to see.

Komaeda himself expresses a degree of disbelief in their results: "I am surprised that we are winning so many games. We still have a lot of room for improvement. But the players are growing up." Nicanor fondly calls it "children's soccer", without a hint of disparagement. Bellmare have become the kind of team that everyone wants to watch.

Surfing to victory

HIRATSUKA is a town for the young. It is described as Tokyo's Brighton — one of Japan's first bathing beaches opened there in 1905 — but with sand and surfing.

It is the main town of the Shonan coast, which attracts some 15 million tourists annually. Shonan was named after a classical Chinese beauty spot — Xiaoxing on the southern shores of Lake Dongting — but today it is a centre of youth culture, a zone for hot-rodders, beach boys and countless youth movies. The J. League has targeted the young from the start. Nothing could suit the league's image better than for Bellmare's Shonan boys to lift the trophy in November.

But there is another view of Bellmare's success. Some would say that the former Fujita team, three-times champions of the Japan Soccer League, is simply back where it belongs. Take a look, for example, at the JSL final table for 1983, when the top three teams were Yomiuri (now Verdy), Nissan (now Marinos) and Fujita (now Bellmare). The J. League has changed a lot, but some patterns have not.

RESULTS

J.LEAGUE — NICOS SERIES (SECOND STAGE)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Iwashita 52). **Att:** 51,390.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Luhovy 5),
GAMBA OSAKA 0. **Att:** 9,611.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 100),
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0. Att: 15,947.

JUBILO IWATA 0
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2
(Yoshioka 36, Edu 67). **Att:** 14,736.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2
(Betinho 23 pen, Almir 84),
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0 **Att:** 15,486.

VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Takeda 18, 85, Bentinho 39)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1
(Ordenewitz 43). **Att:** 10,617.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2
(Lineker 24, Jorginho 81)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 4 (Hasegawa 32, Leonardo 59, Masuda 66, Alcindo 68). **Att:** 21,753.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 2
(Ordenewitz 52 pen, 89 pen)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3
(Bisconti 29, 33, Medina Bello 74). **Att:** 48,935.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 0
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1
(Buchwald 89 pen). **Att:** 14,083.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 3
(Cerny 7, 75, Yanagimoto 52)
VERDY KAWASAKI 2
(Bentinho 21, 54). **Att:** 42,505.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 0
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Fujita 108). **Att:** 37,306.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 3
(Teruo Iwamoto 48, 65, Nishiyama 86). **Att:** 19,505.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Miura 4)
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Kageyama 88).
(JEF won 3-1 on pens). **Att:** 17,484.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3
(Medina Bello 44, 66, Yamada 86)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0 **Att:** 12,971.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2
(Hironari Iwamoto 79, Teruo Iwamoto 116),
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Edu pen 60).
Att: 44, 338.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Leonardo 14). Att: 18,887.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Lineker 46),
VERDY KAWASAKI 2
(Takeda 36, Bismarck 63). **Att:** 21,316.

JUBILO IWATA 2 (Fujita 63, Vanenburg 84),
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1
(Rummenigge 25). **Att:** 14,163.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 3),
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Yamaguchi 16, Maeda 42). **Att:** 15,638.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Takleda 60, 77),
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Flavio (79 pen). **Att:** 10,641.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 5 (Ordenewiz 29, 67, Igarashi 42, Maslovar 80, Goto 89),
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Matsubara 74). **Att:** 18,381.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Toninho 43). **Att:** 13,307.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2
(Bisconti 48 pen, Diaz 87),
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1
(Moriyama 89). **Att:** 13,652.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Rummenigge 80)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 4 (Edson 14, Betinho 27, 43, Narahashi 30). **Att:** 9,230.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JUBILO IWATA 3 (Paus 29, Matsubara 46, 59),
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 1 (Betinho 36).
Att: 14,256.

GAMBA OSAKA 0
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0
(Marinos won 4-3 on pens). **Att:** 19,060.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Toninho 2, Ronaldo 9),
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 1 (Mori 5).
Att: 20,077.

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Noh 97).
Att: 16,875.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 2 (Leonado 31 pen, 48),
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0 **Att:** 15,661.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maeda 8, Katsura 85);
VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Bentinho 17, 68, Takeda 46). **Att:** 14,085.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Yoshiaki Sato 71),
VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Pereira 44, 47, Bentinho 63). **Att:** 55,125.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 3 (Binic 57, 68, Stojkovic 74),
JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 1 (Ordenewitz 67)
Att: 24,157.

JUBILO IWATA 0
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0.
(Jubilo won 4-3 on pens). **Att:** 13,970.

GAMA OSAKA 1 (Isogai 38),
SHIMIZU S PULSE 0 **Att:** 19,429.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Valber 5)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0 **Att:** 14,508.

BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 3
(Betinho 5, Noguchi 79, 87)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1
(Kurosaki 78) **Att:** 15,523.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

JEF UNITED ICHIHARA 0
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 3 (Valber 18, Yamaguchi 52, Maeda 66). **Att:** 23,258.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Bismarck 52 pen, 72),
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Hasegawa 76).
Att: 10,640.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 1 (Ueno 79)
BELLMARE HIRATSUKA 2
(Betinho 18 pen, 82). **Att:** 13,448.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 5 (Shirai 39, Toninho 44, 74, Jauminha 61, 97)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 4
(Luhovy 12, 22, 81, Rummenigge 16). **Att:** 19,001.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 4
(Binic 3, Ogura 6, Stojkovic 44 pen, 89 pen),
JUBILO IWATA 1 (Yonezawa 45). **Att:** 19,137.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Hasek 2),
GAMBA OSAKA 1 (Yamamura 43). (Sanfrecce won 4-2 on pens). **Att:** 8,898.

J.LEAGUE — NICOS SERIES

	P	W	L	F	A
Verdy Kawasaki	12	10	2	27	16
Bellmare Hiratsuka	12	9	3	28	15
Yokohama Marinos	12	8	4	20	11
Sanfrecce Hiroshima	12	7	5	17	16
Yokohama Flugels	12	6	6	20	16
Shimizu S Pulse	12	6	6	14	16
Jubilo Iwata	12	6	6	16	26
Kashima Antlers	12	5	7	22	18
Nagoya Grampus Eight	12	5	7	23	26
JEF United Ichihara	12	4	8	22	29
Urawa Red Diamonds	12	4	8	17	28
Gamba Osaka	12	2	10	12	21

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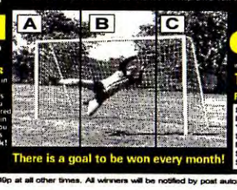

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Keeping the faith

NIGERIAN Peter Rufai seems to have been accepted, at long last, as his country's top goalkeeper.

He is not surprised. After an up-and-down international career, lasting 12 years, 31-year-old Rufai's displays during the World Cup saw off the competition and bore out his earlier forecast: "I've no doubt that I'll be reinstated as first choice. Goalkeeping comes naturally to me, and I am very experienced."

Yet Rufai's place was by no means assured before the squad set off for the United States. Wilfred Agbonavbare and Alloy Agu also were in the party, and coach Clemens Westerhof was known to have his doubts about Rufai, whose nickname of "The Rock" was sometimes belied by handling errors.

Fortunately for Rufai and the legions of fans who readily forgive him for his mistakes, Westerhof put him in the team for the opening game, a 3-0 win against Bulgaria. He did well, and he did even better against Argentina, even though Nigeria lost 2-1 in what Rufai called "a hell of a match".

He had little to do in the final group game, but one save against Greece helped his team to a 2-0 victory.

That led to perhaps the biggest blow of Rufai's international career, which stretches back to his debut as a teenager in 1983. Nigeria were two minutes away from a sensational victory over Italy — thanks largely to the keeper's saves — when Roberto Baggio snatched an equaliser.

Then, in extra time, Baggio hit the winner from a penalty — off a post. "An unforgettable match and an unforgettable tournament," says Rufai.

He has come a long way from his early days with his first club, Stationery Stores, and has had considerable success. In his first year, 1981, he helped SS to the final of the African Cup-winners Cup, which they lost 2-1 on aggregate to Union Douala of Cameroon.

Promotion to the national squad quickly followed, and Rufai earned huge adulation with his success in three African Nations Cup semi-finals, all of which went to penalty shoot-outs In each case, against Egypt in 1984, Cameroon in 1988 and Ivory Coast earlier this year, Rufai made vital saves to take his country into the finals. The first two were lost, but third time proved to be lucky for Rufai, who helped in a 2-1 win over Zambia.

By then, he had left Africa for Europe, and a place with Go Ahead Eagles in Holland.

But "The Rock" is always glad to return to his native country — especially when the national team send for him. He is aiming to keep that hard-earned crown for as long as possible.

OMOSEYE BOLAJI

Peter Rufai . . . hands above the rest.

Tragedy strikes Nigerian champions

AFRICAN soccer has been hit by yet another air tragedy, this time taking the lives of two Nigerian players.

The plane carrying the Nigerian champions Iwuanyanwu Nationale home from a 3-0 defeat in Tunis at the hands of Esperance in their African Champions Cup quarter-final first leg crashed while attempting an emergency landing.

Four people were killed, including Iwuanuanwyu player Omalie Aimuanmwosa. Nationale's goalkeeper, Uche Marc Ikeoju, died a day later from injuries suffered in the crash.

The charter plane, with 32 passengers and seven crew aboard, was attempting to land in poor visibility, but the reason for the emergency landing will only become known after an official inquiry.

The crash came as a big blow to Nigerian soccer, still demoralised after their last-minute elimination at the World Cup and the subsequent mud-slinging in the national team camp. Iwuanuanwyu, attempting to become the first Nigerian side to win the Champions Cup, will soldier on in this year's competition despite the crash, taking their cue from Zambia, who recovered heroically from their air tragedy in April last year.

The Zambians lost 18 World Cup players in a crash en route to a World Cup qualifying match against Senegal, but came back to come within one point of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the USA and then ending runners-up at the African Nations Cup finals in Tunisia.

Zambia were also given FIFA's annual Fairplay award for the rebuilding of their team.

Iwunauanwyu asked for, and were granted, a postponement of their return leg match against Esperance. They were also seeking to register new players with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for the duration of this year's Champions Cup tournament.

● The latest air disaster cast a dark shadow over the quarter-final matches in the Champions Cup, African Cup-winners' Cup and CAF Cup.

But the games in the last eight of each of the three tournaments still provided some tough clashes and an abnormally high number of goals.

Holders Zamalek made it through to the semi-finals at the expense of Sogara of Gabon, but had to come from behind to win 3-2 on aggregate. Their new Ghanaian signing Oscar Laud turned out to be the hero. In the semi-final they will meet Nkana of Zambia, who beat Simba of Tanzania 4-3 on aggregate.

The winner of the Iwuanyanwu Nationale-Esperance game plays Mouloudia Oran in the other semi-final.

MARK GLEESON

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA
CHAMPIONS US Chaouia won the Super Cup at the start of the new season with a 1-0 win over JS Kabylie. The only goal was scored by Belahadi after 52 minutes.

MOROCCO
KAWKAB MARRAKESH have sold their World Cup striker Ahmed Bahja to El Hilal in Saudi Arabia. He is the second Moroccan-based player to leave for the Gulf within a month, following Russian Youri Sebastienko, sold by Wydad Casabalanca to Al Chabab. However, they do have a new coach — Abdelkhalek Louzani who was in charge of the national team before being surprisingly replaced last September just one match away from World Cup qualification.

LIBYA
AL AHLY retained their league title with a 1-0 win over El Ittihad, coached by Englishman Ron Bradley, in the titleplay-off. Both teams topped their respective groups. Idriss Mikraz of Al Ahly was the leading scorer in the championship with 11 goals.

EGYPT
AL AHLY, coached by Allan Harris, had a solid start to the 1994/1995 league campaign, as the only side with maximum nine points three matches. Star of the club is Ghana international striker, Felix Aboagye, who scored in all three fixtures. Al Ahly won't be distracted by the quest for this season's African Cup Winners' Cup (they are holders) — they recently withdrew from the competition.

TUNISIA
CHAMPIONS Esperance won the pre-season Super Cup with a 2-0 win over AS Marsa. Goals came from international Ayed Hamrouni in the first half and Ben Hassen after 71 minutes. The team, inspired by the form of Zambian international Kenneth Malitoli and the recently-returned Taoufik Hicheri (from Vitoria Guimaraes in Portugal), have also shot to the top of the table at the start of the new season. They have a one-point lead over CS Sfaxien.

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO
RC KADIOGO won the cup following a narrow 1-0 win over FC Bodo-Dioulasso.

CAMEROON
BOTTOM-PLACED PWD Kumbna have been kicked out of the First Division after forfeiting their second match this season. The club, who had just six points from 21 games, failed to arrange their match against Union Abongmbang and were expelled by the Cameroonian federation. Aigles de Nkongsamba still lead the championship by four points from Union Douala and Cotonsport Garoua.

IVORY COAST
A 2-1 win for Africa Sports over great rivals ASEC Abidjan gives them a two-point lead in the final phase of the championship. Six teams are involved in the play-offs, but it should be a straight fight between the two Abidjan giants for the title. French-born coach Philippe Troussier is set to return as coach of ASEC Abidjan next year after being fired by South African club Kaizer Chiefs. The national team has just been taken over by another Frenchman, Pierre Pleimelding. He replaces the Pole Henri Kasperczak, who has moved to Tunisia. Pleimelding is a former coach of Second Division Epinal in France.

GABON
GABON have withdrawn as hosts of next January's African youth championships, leaving a major headache for the Confederation of African Football.

The under-20 champions will determine the continent's two representatives for the world youth championships in Nigeria in March but with time running out no alternative venue has been found.

Some 20 countries were approached by CAF but no one has stepped into the breech. It is likely that the championship will be played in Nigeria as a practice run for the world youth championships.

Champions AS Sogara have sold their leading striker Ipaye Wasiu to Club Africain of Tunisia. Wasiu is a former Nigerian international and was leading goalscorer in Gabon for the last three seasons. Despite his absence, Sogara still lead the championship with a seven-point lead over Mangasport and Petrosport.

SIERRA LEONE
LACK of money forced Diamond Stars to pull out of the quarter-finals of the CAF Cup after they had been given a free berth to the last eight. Stars originally lost their second round tie to Unisport Bafang of Cameroon, but were reinstated in the draw after Bafang were found to have fielded an ineligible player. But a quarter-final meeting with El Mourada of Sudan proved too expensive and the Sudanese now have a free route to the semi-finals.

NIGER
ZUMUNTA have won the national cup with a 3-1 win over Espor de Ziner and will play in next year's African Cup-winners Cup. Long-time rivals Sahel SC won the championship, four points ahead of Olympic. Zumunta finished third, a further six points behind.

NIGERIA
BCC LIONS have opened up a five-point gap at the top of the table from second-placed Julius Berger. The Gnabko-based club now need just four points from their last four games to take the title. Defending champions Iwuanyanwu Nationale are back in ninth place.

SENEGAL
US NDIAMBOUR LOUGA needed a penalty shoot-out to beat US Rail and secure the championship for a second time. Diaraf Dakar beat CSS Richard-Toll 1-0 in the cup final, Cheikhou Tall scoring the winner after just eight minutes. It was Diaraf's ninth cup victory since 1970.

TOGO
SEMASSIO DE SOKODE retained their league title from rivals ASKO Kara and Agaza Lome who finished second and third respectively. FLO and Foadan de Dapaong have been relegated.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZAMBIA
MUFULIRA WANDERERS, from the copperbelt, lead the First Division with a one-point lead over Zamsure, the Lusaka-based club. Wanderers are also through to the Cup final, where they face Roan United.

RESULTS

1996 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

Group 1
ZAIRE 1 (Essende 80),
MALAWI 1 (Maduka 85).

ZIMBABWE 5 (Nagoli 10, Shonhai 15, A. Ndlovu 51, Takawira 83, 89),
LESOTHO 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	5	0 2
Malawi	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
Zaire	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
Cameroon	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Lesotho	1	0	0	1	0	5 0

Group 2
GUINEA BISSAU 1 (Pau 44 pen)
TUNISIA 3 (Travels 5, Beya 19, Edy 36, Berrekhissa 80).

LIBERIA 1 (Weah 42)
TOGA 0.

SENEGAL 0
MAURITANIA 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	3	1 2
Liberia	1	1	0	0	1	0 2
Mauritania	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Senegal	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Togo	1	0	0	1	0	1 0
Guinea Bissau	1	0	0	1	1	3 0

Group 3
CONGO 1 (Mounkassa 64)
GAMBIA 1 (P. Johnson 38).

GHANA 4 (da Costa 55 pen, Duah 63, Akunnor 72, Aboagye 88)
SIERRA LEONE 1 (Conteh 87).

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Ghana	1	1	0	0	4	1 2
Congo	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
Gambia	1	0	1	0	1	1 1
Niger	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Sierra Leone	1	0	0	1	1	4 0

Group 4
ETHIOPIA 0
ALGERIA 0.

TANZANIA 4 (Salehe 5, Lunyamila 9, 88, Nteze 13)
UGANDA 0.

SUDAN 0
EGYPT 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Tanzania	1	1	0	0	4	0 2
Algeria	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Egypt	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Ethiopia	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Sudan	1	0	1	0	0	0 1
Uganda	1	0	0	1	0	4 0

Group 5
MADAGASCAR 0
SOUTH AFRICA 1 (P. Masinga 21).

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
South Africa	1	1	0	0	1	0 2
Gabon	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Mauritius	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Zambia	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Madagascar	1	0	0	1	0	1 0

Group 6
ANGOLA 2 (Tulipa 6, Merodack 40)
NAMIBIA 0.

BOTSWANA 0
GUINEA 1 (A. Camara 89).

MALI 2 (Sidibe 20, 30)
MOZAMBIQUE 1 (Matola 69).

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Angola	1	1	0	0	2	0 2
Mali	1	1	0	0	2	1 2
Guinea	1	1	0	0	1	0 2
Mozambique	1	0	0	1	1	2 0
Botswana	1	0	0	1	0	1 0
Namibia	1	0	0	1	0	2 0

Group 7
BURKINA FASO 2 (Ouedraogo 49, Quattara 68)
MOROCCO 1 (El Khalej 32).

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Burkina Faso	1	1	0	0	2	1 2
Benin	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
Morocco	1	0	0	1	1	2 0

AFRICAN YOUTH (U-20) CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Round
Egypt v Sudan 2-0 1-2
Egypt won 3-2 on agg
Uganda withdrew v Burundi ..... w/o
Cameroon w/o v Kenya ..... withdrew
Togo v Angola 1-1 0-0
Agg: 1-1, Angola won on away goals
Mauritius w/o v Madagascar.... withdrew
South Africa v Lesotho 3-2 1-1
South Africa won 4-3 on agg
Zimbabwe withdrew v Ethiopia ..... w/o
Zaire withdrew v Zambia ..... w/o
Ghana v Burkina Faso 5-1 2-0
Ghana wpn 7-1 on agg
Tunisia v Mali 1-0 0-1
Agg: 1-1, Mali win 5-4 on pens
Morocco w/o v Sierra Leone.... withdrew
Ivory Coast v Senegal 0-1 0-0
Senegal won 1-0 on agg
Nigeria v Guinea Bissau 3-0 2-1
Nigeria won 5-1 on agg
Guinea v Algeria 2-0 1-1
Guinea win 3-1 on agg

2nd Round draw
Egypt v Burundi
Cameroon v Angola
Mauritius v South Africa
Ethiopia v Zambia
Ghana v Mali
Morocco v Senegal
Nigeria v Guinea
● *Winners qualify for the African Championships in Nigeria in January 1995.*

1994 AFRICAN CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals — 1st leg
Mbilinga (Gab) v Malindi (Tan) 4-0
Kenya Breweries v USS Tamponnaise (Rl) .1-0
Agaza Omnisport (Tog) v Oly. Beja (Tun) ..6-1
BCC Lions (Nig) v DC Motema Pembe (Zai)..2-1

Quarter-finals — 2nd leg
Malindi v Mbilinga 1-0
Mbilinga won 4-1 on agg
USS Tamponnaise v Kenya Breweries 1-1
Kenya Breweries won 2-1 on agg
Olympic Beja v Agaza Omnisport 4-1
Agaza Omnisport won 7-5 on agg
DC Motema Pembe v BCC Lions 4-2
DC Motema Pembe won 5-4 on agg

1994 CAF CUP

Quarter-finals — 1st leg
Bendel (Nig) v US Chaouia (Alg) 1-0
St Denis (Rl) v JS Kairouan (Tun) 5-3
AFC Leopards (Ken) v Primiero Maio (Ang) ...2-1
El Mourada (Sud) w/o v Diamond Stars (SL)

Quarter-finals — 2nd leg
US Chaouia v Bendel Insurance 1-0
Agg: 1-1, Bendel won 4-2 on pens
JS Kairouan v St Denis 1-0
St Denis won 5-4 on agg
Primiero Maio v AFC Leopards 1-0
Agg: 2-2, Primiero won on away goals
El Mourada (Sud) w/o v Diamond Stars (SL)
El Mourada won by default (Stars withdrew)

WEST AFRICAN FOOTBALL UNION (WAFU) CUP

1st Round
Ports Authority (SL) v Horoya (Gui) 4-0; 1-2
Ports Authority won 5-2 on agg
Bendel (Nig) v RC Kadiogo (BF) 3-0; 2-2
Bendel Insurance won 5-2 on agg
ASC Bouake (IC) v AS Mande (Mali) ..2-0; 3-2
ASC Bouake won 5-2 on agg
Mighty Barolle (Lib) w/o v Real Banjul (Gam)
Etoile Sportive (Ben) v ASKO (Togo) ..0-0; 0-1
ASKO won 1-0 on agg
Plateau Utd (Nig) w/o v Al Kali Nassara (Niger)

2nd Round
Bendel Insurance v Ports Authority ...5-1; 1-2
Bendel Insurance won 6-3 on agg
ASC Bouake w/o v Mighty Barolle
ASKO v Plateau United 2-3; 1-1
Plateau Utd won 4-3 on agg

Semi-finals
Plateau United v ASK Bouake
Bendel Insurance bye

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

FC LINZ 1 (Stumpf 13)
STURM GRAZ 1 (Haas 81). **Att:** 4,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 2 (Madlener 20, Naawuh 45)
ADMIRA WACKER 2 (Schiener 15, Mayrleb 18). **Att:** 3,000.

FC TIROL 1 (Sane 45)
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 10,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 3 (Mjelde 32, Ogris 65, Kubica 77)
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1 (Pfeifenberger 90). **Att:** 10,000.

VfB MODLING 1 (Waliczek 57)
RAPID WIEN 2 (Slivovski 47, Obrecht 86). **Att:** 4,000.

WEEKEND

RAPID WIEN 3 (Obrecht 43, Purk 52, Garger 56)
FC TIROL 1 (Sane 63). **Att:** 10,000.

AUSTRIA SALBURG 2 (Pfeifenberger 8, Hasenhuttl 18)
VORWARTS STEYR 2 (Krinner 73, 75). **Att:** 12,000.

STURM GRAZ 1 (Haas 83)
LINZER ASK 0. **Att:** 5,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 3 (Schiener 3, Gager 30, Scharrer 90)
VfB MODLING 1 (Helm 87). **Att:** 1,000.

FC LINZ 2 (Stumpf 75, 80)
AUSTRIA WIEN 2 (Flogel 4, Mjelde 45). **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

AUSTRIAN CUP — 2ND ROUND

GRUNAU 1
FC TIROL

OSTVEILLERN 0
RAPID WIEN 6

DEUTSCHKREUTZ 3
VfB MODLING 2

LANGENROHR 3
ADMIRA WACKER 7

ESSLING 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 5

LEIBNITZ 1
VORWARTS STEYR 3

TRAUN 0
FC LINZ 9

HOHENEMS 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 2

EINTRACHT WELS 3
STURM GRAZ 2

GRATKORN 3
LINZER ASK 3 (aet)
Linzer ASK won on pens

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 3 (Ogris 45, 48, Djuricin 85)
STURM GRAZ 2 (Wetl 67, Hortnagel 73). **Att:** 5,000.

VfB MODLING 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0. **Att:** 4,000.

LINZER ASK 1 (Ramusch 8)
RAPID WIEN 3 (Purk48, Hatz 62, Mandreko 84). **Att:** 7,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 3 (Naawu 63, 78, Krinner 75)
FC LINZ 0. **Att:** 5,000.

FC TIROL 5 (Sane 54, 62, 77, Cerny 79, Stoger 86)
ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Gager 65). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

RAPID WIEN 2 (Purk 47, 84)
STURM GRAZ 3 (Friesenbichler 53, 90, Haas 62). **Att:** 15,000.

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 1 (Hutter 3)
FC TIROL 1 (Sane 62). **Att:** 14,000.

AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Mjelde 74)
VORWARTS STEYR 0. **Att:** 3,000.

ADMIRA WACKER 1 (Mayrleb 20)
LINZER ASK 1 (Metlitsky 13). **Att:** 1,000.

FC LINZ 3 (Stumpf 68, 73, 87)
VfB MODLING 1 (Waliczek 74). **Att:** 3,000.

WEEKEND

STURM GRAZ 2 (Schopp 8, Wetl 66)
RAPID WIEN 0. **Att:** 12,000.

FC TIROL 0
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0. **Att:** 16,000.

VORWARTS STEYR 1 (Azima 65)
AUSTRIA WIEN 1 (Kubica 9). **Att:** 4,000.

LINZER ASK 2 (Lorenz 11, Sabitzer 75)
ADMIRA WACKER 0. **Att:** 4,000.

VfB MODLING 3 (Resch 5, Waliczek 48, Wurz 77)
FC LINZ 1 (Stumpf 33). **Att:** 1,000.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sturm Graz	10	5	4	1	16	9	14
Austria Wien	10	3	7	0	13	9	13
Innsbruck	10	4	4	2	14	7	12
Salzburg	10	2	7	1	13	9	11
Rapid Wien	10	4	3	3	16	15	11
Vorwarts Steyr	10	3	4	3	13	13	10
Linz ASK	10	2	5	3	11	10	9
Linzer	10	2	4	4	11	19	8
Admira Wacker	10	1	5	4	11	18	7
VfB Modling	10	1	3	6	11	20	5

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

WEEKEND

LOMMEL 1 (Van Geneugden 8)
ANDERLECHT 2 (Walem 7, Weber 24). **Att:** 12,000.

LIERSE 3 (Peeters 3, De Smet 71, De Sousa 90)
EENDRACHT AALST 1 (De Vleesshouwer 10). **Att:** 7,500.

STANDARD LIEGE 2 (Wilmots 68, Vidmar 79)
ST TRUIDEN 0. **Att:** 20,000.

RWDM 3 (Vandenbergh 11, Wuyts pen 36, Lorincz 38)
MECHELEN 1 (Nassen og 28). **Att:** 5,000.

OOSTENDE 0
ANTWERP 3 (Severeyns 50, 67, Rubenilson 88). **Att:** 6,500.

GENT 1 (Barka 9)
CLUB BRUGGE 2 (Staelens 14, Eijkelkamp 88). **Att:** 13,000.

CERCLE 2 (Hanganu 27, 37)
SERAING 1 (Lawaree 52). **Att:** 3,000.

EKEREN 3 (Hofmans 2, 53, Radzinski 75)
BEVEREN 0. **Att:** 4,000.

FC LIEGE 2 (Kimoni 6, Kinet 8)
CHARLEROI 2 (Frenay 27, Brogno 46). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 0
STANDARD LIEGE 3 (Vidmar 51, 73, Wilmots 86). **Att:** 15,000.

ST TRUIDEN 4 (Vanmarsenille 3, Nielsen 62, 73, Verjans 69)
RWDM 2 (Vandenbergh 71, Nielsen 73). **Att:** 5,000.

ANDERLECHT 4 (Versavel 36, Crasson 66, Haagdoren 79, Weber 88)
LIERSE 2 (Huysmans 49, 56). **Att:** 19,000.

BEVEREN 2 (Van Overtveld 17, 46)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 4,5000.

SERAING 1 (Lukaku 76)
EKEREN 1 (Dheedene 34). **Att:** 3,500.

ANTWERP 3 (Zohar pen 59, Van Gompel 64, 77)
GENT 2 (Martens 16, Van Laere 81, 87). **Att:** 4,500.

MECHELEN 4 (Urban 8, Molby 12, Bartholomeeussen 73, Czerniatynski 83)
OOSTENDE 1 (Van Veirdeghem pen 87). **Att:** 6,000.

EENDRACHT 2 (De Bilde 40, 88)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 4,500.

CLUB BRUGGE 4 (Borkelmans 40, Staelens 52, 65, Verheyen 59)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

LOMMEL 3 (Peeters 12, Waligora 38, Vangeneugden 89)
SERAING 1 (Edmilson 33). **Att:** 4,500.

LIERSE 3 (Peeters 52, Huysmans pen 70, Lehman 80)
BEVEREN 1 (Bogaerts 26). **Att:** 6,500.

RWDM 1 (Thairet 70)
CHARLEROI 0. **Att:** 4,000.

GENT 2 (Dauwen 69, Martens 89)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 6,900.

CERCLE BRUGES 0
ANTWERP 0. **Att:** 2,500.

FC LIEGE 1 (Varga pen 81)
STANDARD LIEGE 1 (Vidmar pen 2). **Att:** 12,000.

EENDRACHT AALST 3 (Lamberg 62, Krncevic 70, De Bilde pen 90)
ANDERLECHT 6 (Boffin pen 32, 38, 80, Bosman 53, Haagdoren 56, Preko 87). **Att:** 8,500.

OOSTENDE 2 (Soudan 62, Van Veirdeghem pen 78)
ST TRUIDEN 1 (Verjans 84). **Att:** 5,500.

EKEREN 1 (Hofmans 5)
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Verheyen 63). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

WEEKEND

ST TRUIDEN 0
GENT 1 (Karacic 90). **Att:** 9,000.

CHARLEROI 1 (Misse-Misse 64)
OOSTENDE 0. **Att:** 7,000.

STANDARD LIEGE 1 (Bisconti 46)
RWDM 1 (Wuyts 83). **Att:** 14,400.

ANDERLECHT 2 (Bosman 7, Degryse 50)
FC LIEGE 0. **Att:** 12,000.

BEVEREN 3 (Massagie 70, Goots 83, 90)
EENDRACHT AALST 0. **Att:** 6,000.

ANTWERP 4 (Severeyns 21, 88, Zohar 47, Porte 83)
EKEREN 2 (Verstraeten 74, Hofmans 90). **Att:** 5,000.

MECHELEN 3 (Asselman 13, Czerniatynski 41, Molby 64)
CERCLE BRUGES 1 (Munteanu 81). **Att:** 6,000.

SERAING 4 (Edmilson 18, Lawaree 65, 88, Lukaku 78)
LIERSE 1 (Snoeckx 29). **Att:** 5,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 5 (Eijkelkamp 12, Staelens 27, Vermant 60, Van der Heyden 65, Verheyen 70)
LOMMEL 0. **Att:** 9,000.

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Standard Liege	7	5	2	0	14	3	12
Anderlecht	7	5	1	1	19	11	11
Club Brugge	7	4	2	1	17	7	10
Seraing	7	4	1	2	15	9	9
Lierse	7	4	0	3	18	14	8
Antwerp	7	3	2	2	13	9	8
Mechelen	7	4	0	3	11	9	8
Ghent	7	3	2	2	11	11	8
RWDM	7	2	3	2	10	11	7
Beveren	7	3	0	4	9	10	6
St Truiden	7	2	2	3	7	8	6
Ekeren	7	1	3	3	11	13	5
Charleroi	7	1	3	3	5	9	5
Lommel	7	2	1	4	8	14	5
Cercle Bruges	7	2	1	4	5	11	5
Aalst	7	2	1	4	11	18	5
Oostend	7	2	0	5	7	15	4
FC Liege	7	0	4	3	6	15	4

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

WEEKEND

FC TWENTE 2 (Boerebach 64, Platvoet 87)
DORDRECHT 2 (Rook 1, Robbemond 18). **Att:** 5,300.

NAC BREDA 0
VITESSE 0. **Att:** 9,979.

RKC 1 (Boogers 32)
RODA JC 1 (Van Galen 9). **Att:** 2,300.

SPARTA 0
FEYENOORD 1 (Witschge 65). **Att:** 13,000.

FC UTRECHT 4 (Booy 31, 57, Nascimento 73, Hofstede 81)
HEERENVEEN 0. **Att:** 7,100.

MVV 1 (Joordens 62)
NEC NIJMEGEN 2 (Stock 4, Pothuizen 72). **Att:** 5,000.

FC GRONINGEN 3 (Bombarda 8, Veenhof 42, Blaauw 90)
WILLEM II 1 (Meijs 49). **Att:** 12,212.

PSV 4 (Ronaldo 1, 48, Hoekstra 58, Nilis 81)
GA EAGLES 1 (Leferink 88). **Att:** 26,400.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

AJAX 5 (Frank de Boer 10, Kluivert 29, George 39, Rijkaard 69, Van Vossen 84)
VITESSE 0. **Att:** 19,200.

DORDRECHT 0
RKC 1 (Decheiver 24). **Att:** 1,616.

GA EAGLES 2 (De Gier 81, Valk 89)
FEYENOORD 2 (Witschge 62, Kiprich 78). **Att:** 8,000.

FC GRONINGEN 3 (Bombarda 20, Heuvel 39, Schreuder 49)
NAC BREDA 4 (Van Hooijdonk 63, 90, Remie 80, Lammers 84). **Att:** 11,485.

HEERENVEEN 0
MVV 4 (Richard Roelofsen 35, 80, Thal 60, Straal 87). **Att:** 12,000.

NEC NIJMEGEN 0
FC VOLENDAM 0. **Att:** 2,850.

SPARTA 3 (D de Nooijer 14, 77, Van den Berg 88)
FC TWENTE 4 (Ter Avest 4, Platvoet 15, Kool 39, Vurens 89). **Att:** 2,000.

WILLEM II 0
UTRECHT 1 (De Jong 65). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

MVV 3 (Roelofsen 8, Visser 10, Van As 67)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 4,000.

PSV 4 (Hoekstra 36, Vink 39, Wouters 62, Meijer 80)
DORDRECHT 0. **Att:** 24,500.

RKC 2 (Boogers 49, 90)
SPARTA 2 (Boogers 49, 90). **Att:** 1,900.

FC TWENTE 3 (Zwijnenberg 19, Boerebach pen 38, Mols 86)
GA EAGLES 0. **Att:** 5,100.

UTRECHT 2 (De Jong 11, Booy 27)
FC GRONINGEN 1 (Huizingh 82). **Att:** 9,000.

VITESSE 1 (Van de Looi 85)
RODA JC 1 (Doomernik 60). **Att:** 5,360.

FC VOLENDAM 1 (Ooyer 76)
HEERENVEEN 2 (Echteld 54, Bijl 61). **Att:** 4,000.

NAC v AJAX — *postponed*

FEYENOORD v NEC — *postponed*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

WEEKEND

AJAX 3 (Kluivert 4, 82, Overmars 90)
DORDRECHT 0. **Att:** 19,200.

MVV 3 (Hofman 29, 35, 38)
FC UTRECHT 2 (Booy 80, Gorter 83). **Att:** 7,350.

NAC BREDA 2 (Van Hooijdonk 2, 90 pen)
RODA JC 4 (Graef 19, 33, 75, Huiberts 26). **Att:** 10,750.

FC TWENTE 4 (Bosvelt 12, Karnebeek 39, Boerebach pen 72, Bruggink 76)
HEERENVEEN 3 (De Visser pen 47, Meijer 56, Regtop 89). **Att:** 5,300.

VITESSE 2 (Cocu 6, Helder 85)
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 5,818.

FEYENOORD 0
WILLEM II 2 (Bouchial 71, Van Hintum pen 84). **Att:** 26,078.

RKC 1 (Boogers 52)
NEC NIJMEGEN 3 (Van der Linden 12, Van Eijkereen 68, 86). **Att:** 2,500.

VOLENDAM 1 (Wasiman pen 23)
GRONINGEN 1 (Huizingh pen 55). **Att:** 3,500.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Twente	7	4	3	0	17	11	11
Ajax	5	4	1	0	14	2	9
FC Utrecht	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
PSV	5	3	2	0	15	6	8
MVV	6	4	0	2	14	7	8
Roda JC	6	2	4	0	11	6	8
Feyenoord	6	2	3	1	9	6	7
Willem II	7	3	1	3	11	9	7
NEC	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Vitesse	7	1	4	2	5	10	6
Heerenveen	7	3	0	4	8	17	6
NAC	5	2	1	2	9	11	5
FC Volendam	6	1	3	2	5	7	5
GA Eagles	6	1	2	3	7	14	4
FC Groningen	7	1	2	4	9	12	4
RKC	7	1	2	4	8	14	4
Dordrecht	7	0	3	4	3	14	3
Sparta	6	0	2	4	6	12	2

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

ESTRELA AMADORA 0
SPORTING LISBON 2 (Juskowiak 1, 43). **Att:** 10,000.

BELENENSES 3 (Darci 44, Mauro Airez 56, Tulipa 89)
BOAVISTA 1 (Sanchez 33). **Att:** 5,000.

FARENSE 1 (Hassan Nader 24)
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 8,300.

GUIMARAES 1 (Kupressanin 77)
TIRSENSE 0. **Att:** 20,000.

CHAVES 1 (Jose Maria 46)
SPORTING BRAGA 0. **Att:** 5,600.

GIL VICENTE 0
BEIRA-MAR 1 (Tarcisio 55). **Att:** 5,000.

FC PORTO 3 (Aloisio pen 11, Folha 41, Jose Carlose 55)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 10,000.

BENFICA 1 (Vitor Paneira 24)
VITORIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 35,000.

MARITIMO 2 (Alex 32, Gustavo 88)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

WEEKEND

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Figo 10, 26)
MARITIMO 0. **Att:** 18,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Abazi 28, Artur pen 71)
ESTRELA AMADORA 1 (Rui Aguas 88). **Att:** 6,000.

SALGUEIROS 1 (Edmilsson 21)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 7,800.

TIRSENSE 3 (Marcelo 36, 44, pen 64)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 8,430.

SPORTING BRAGA 3 (Sergio 43, Karoglan 69, Toni 70)
GUIMARAES 1 (Pedro Martins 44). **Att:** 12,500.

BEIRA-MAR 4 (C Costa 51, Alexandre og 57, Miguel 61, Tarcisio 89)
CHAVES 2 (Tonino 11, Edinho 82). **Att:** 8,000.

UNIAO MADEIRA 2 (Jokanovic pen 29, Simic 83)
GIL VICENTE 0. **Att:**3,600

SETUBAL 2 (Filgueira 34, P Gomes 45)
FC PORTO 3 (Koeljkov 40, Rui Barros 81, Emerson 85). **Att:** 10,000.

UNIAO LEIRIA 1 (Luis Miguel 79)
BENFICA 0. **Att:** 20,140.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

1994 SUPER CUP — REPLAY

BENFICA 0
FC PORTO 0

WEEKEND

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Juskowiak 22, Chiquinho Conde 62)
BOAVISTA 2 (Timofte 71, 72). **Att:** 45,000.

ESTRELA AMADORA 4 (Cainho 75, Rui Aguas 82, 84, Goncalves 87)
SALGUEIROS 0. **Att:** 8,200.

BELENENSES 0
TIRSENSE 1 (Paredao 50). **Att:** 2,000.

FARENSE 0
SP. BRAGA 1 (Toni 69). **Att:** 9,400.

GUIMARAES 1 (Tanta 90)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 12,000.

CHAVES 5 (Edinho 21, Jose Maria 39, 89, Tonino 61, David 75)
MADEIRA 1 (Jokanovic 9). **Att:** 6,000.

GIL VICENTE 3 (Miguel 62, Mangonga 80, 84)
VITÓRIA SETUBAL 0. **Att:** 7,500.

FC PORTO 2 (Domingos 46, Barros 47)
UNIAO LEIRIA 0. **Att:** 30,000.

MARITIMO v BENFICA — *postponed*

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	6	5	1	0	13	3	11
Sporting Lisbon	6	5	1	0	13	5	11
Chaves	6	4	0	2	10	6	8
Tirsense	6	4	0	2	8	3	8
Guimaraes	6	3	2	1	8	6	8
Boavista	6	3	1	2	8	9	7
Sporting Braga	6	3	1	2	9	7	7
Benfica	5	3	1	1	6	2	7
Maritimo	5	2	1	2	6	6	5
Salgueiros	6	2	1	3	4	8	5
Uniao Leiria	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
Madeira	6	2	1	3	8	14	5
Beira-Mar	6	2	0	4	6	10	4
Estrela Amadora	6	1	2	3	7	8	4
Farense	6	2	0	4	5	9	4
Belenenses	6	1	1	4	6	9	3
Gil Vicente	6	1	1	4	4	8	3
Vitoria Setubal	6	0	1	5	6	13	1

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

MIDWEEK

AARAU 0
FC BASEL 0. **Att:** 7,400.

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Yakin 68)
SERVETTE 0. **Att:** 4,100.

LAUSANNE 3 (Badea 15, 37, Sogbie pen 86)
SION 2 (Bonvin 42, Marin 65). **Att:** 6,100.

ST GALLEN 1 (Gilewicz 5)
YOUNG BOYS 1 (Hartmann 35). **Att:** 4,800.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 0
FC ZURICH 1 (Moller 68). **Att:** 9,600.

LUGANO v LUCERNE — *postponed*

WEEKEND

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Magnin 73)
LUGANO 0. **Att:** 4,600.

LAUSANNE 3 (Badea 37, Sogbie 64, Sylvestre 75)
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 4,800.

LUCERNE 3 (Rueda 28, Guntensperger 29, Tuce 57)
SERVETTE 0. **Att:** 9,000.

SERVETTE 0
FC BASEL 0. **Att:** 5,100.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Gottardi 11)
AARAU 1 (Kucharski pen 30). **Att:** 9,100.

YOUNG BOYS 4 (Negrouz 31, Giallanza pen 62, 84, Hartmann 79)
FC ZURICH 0. **Att:** 4,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKEND

AARAU 1 (Wyss 88)
LAUSANNE 1 (Badea 38). **Att:** 3,900.

FC BASEL 4 (Hertig 18, Walker 26, Saric 45, 81)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 17,500.

LUGANO 1 (Sinval 45)
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 1 (Ivanov 90). **Att:** 4,000.

SION 2 (Assis pen 17, 46)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 8,000.

ST GALLEN 1 (Gilewicz 62)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Willems 78). **Att:** 8,500.

FC ZURICH 1 (Studer 45)
SERVETTE 1 (Renato 82). **Att:** 3,700.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

MIDWEEK

SWISS CUP — 1ST ROUND

ONEX 0
NEUCHATEL XAMAX 9

WEEKEND

LAUSANNE 4 (Biaggi 13, 72, La Placa 72, 90)
LUGANO 2 (Manfreda 44, Gentizon 52). **Att:** 4,500.

LUCERNE 2 (Tuce 42, Renggli 56)
SERVETTE 1 (Barberis 37). **Att:** 7,850.

SION 2 (Widmer og 4, Herr 71)
FC ZURICH 1 (Favre 8). **Att:** 7,000.

ST GALLEN 2 (Frick 12, Gilewicz 68)
AARAU 2 (Ratinho 17, Studer 49). **Att:** 6,000.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Aduobe 82)
FC BASEL 0. **Att:** 9,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

MIDWEEK

GRASSHOPPER 4 (Subiat 12, 45, 48, Willems 22)
NEUCHATEL 0. **Att:** 6,100.

SWISS CUP — 1ST ROUND

MONTHEY 4
LAUSANNE 2

BOZINGEN 34 0
FC BASEL 5

FC SUHR 0
FC LUGANO 2

DORNACH 2
LUZERN 4

FC SCHAFFHAUSEN 1
ST GALLEN 0

FC WINTERTHUR 1
FC ZURICH 2

SOLOTHURN 2
YOUNG BOYS 2 (aet)
Young Boys won on pens

WEEKEND

AARAU 5 (Wyss 57, Ratinho 64, Skrzypczak 68, Kucharski 83, Buhlmann 89)
GRASSHOPPER 1 (Kucharski 83). **Att:** 5,100.

FC BASEL 1 (Rey 87)
SION 2 (Herr 48, Assis 82). **Att:** 11,000.

LUGANO 0
ST GALLEN 0. **Att:** 2,600.

SERVETTE 4 (Sinval 14, Djurovski 24, Fatusi 38, Barberis 62)
YOUNG BOYS 0. **Att:** 3,800.

NEUCHATEL XAMAX 3 (Chassot 14, Deani 83, Wittl 89)
LAUSANNE 0. **Att:** 11,800.

FC ZURICH 2 (Heydecker 71, 90)
LUCERNE 2 (Guntensperger 17, Bertelsen 21). **Att:** 3,600.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	12	8	3	1	23	10	19
Neuchatel	12	7	2	3	21	16	16
Lausanne	12	5	5	2	17	13	15
Aarau	12	4	6	2	19	10	14
Lucerne	12	6	2	4	17	20	14
Lugano	12	4	5	3	15	9	13
Sion	12	5	1	6	18	23	11
Servette	12	3	4	5	15	15	10
St Gallen	12	1	8	3	10	13	10
FC Zurich	12	1	7	4	9	17	9
Basel	12	1	5	6	7	10	7
Young Boys	12	2	2	8	10	25	6

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

(September 14)

GROUP A

BARCELONA 2 (Koeman 31, Amor 50)
GALATASARAY 1 (Kubilay Turkyilmaz 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 76,000
Barcelona: Busquets — Abelardo, Guardiola, Koeman, Sergi, Eusebio, Amor, Romario, Beguiristain, Stoichkov, Ivan.
Galatasaray: Stauche — Bulent, Sedat, Mapeza, Korkmaz, Tugay, Pembe, Hamza, Hakan, Saffet, Kubilay Turkyilmaz.

MANCHESTER UNITED 4 (Giggs 33, 65, Kanchelskis 48, Sharpe 70)
IFK GOTHENBURG 2 (Petterson 27, Rehn 50)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 33,625. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel).
Man Utd: Schmeichel — May, Irwin, Bruce, Sharpe, Pallister, Kanchelskis, Ince, Butt, Hughes, Giggs.
IFK Gothenburg: Ravelli — Kamark, Johansson, Bjorklund, Nilsson, Martinsson, Erlingmark, Lindqvist, Blomqvist, Olsson (Rehn 44), Pettersson.

GROUP B

KIEV DYNAMO 3 (Leonenko 48, 76, Rebrov 86)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 2 (Pisarev 12, Tikhonov 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 100,000.
Kiev: Shovkovski — Luzhni, Vashchuk, Lezhentsev, Shmatovalenko (Khomin 65), Kovalets, Kosovski, Skachenko (Rebrov 54), Mikhailenko, Leonenko, Prizetko.
Spartak: Tyapuchkin — Mamedov, Ternavski, Tsimbalar, Rakimov, Chudin, Naduda, Aletnichev (Mukhamadiev 59), Piatnitski, Pisarev, Tikhonov (Rodionov 44).

PARIS SAINT GERMAIN 2 (Weah 40, Bravo 83)
BAYERN MUNICH 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 36,924
Paris SG: Lama — Dieng, Roche, Ricardo, Guerin (Llacer 86), Valdo (Kombouare 88), Bravo, Le Guen, Cobos, Weah, Ginola.
Bayern: Kahn — Jorginho, Kreuzer, Matthaus, Helmer, Ziege, Schupp, Scholl (Hamann 49), Nerlinger, Witeczek (Mazinho 59), Sutter.

GROUP C

ANDERLECHT 0
STEAUA BUCHAREST 0
Att: 16,000
Anderlecht: De Wilde — Crasson, Rutjes, Emmers, Doll, Walem, Weber, Haagdoren (Preko 73), Bosman, Degryse, Boffin (Suray 86).
Steaua: Stingaciu — Panait, Pirvu, Dobos, Csik, Prodan, *Lacatus, Militaru (Rosu 89), Ilie (Iftode 82), Pandur, Stan.
** Lacatus sent off, 88min*

HAJDUK SPLIT 0
BENFICA 0
Att: 35,000
Hajduk: Gabric — Butorovic, Person, Hivic, *Stimac, Andrijacevic (Racunica 75), Vulic, Rapajic, Mornar (Erceg 59), Asanaovic, Mestrovic.
** Stimac sent off, 88min*
Benfica: Preud'homme — Veloso, Paulao, Helder, Dimas, Nelo, Vitor Paneira (Kennedy 86), Abel Xavier, Caniggia (Cesar Brito 89), Tavares, Isaias.

GROUP D

AJAX 2 (R De Boer 51, Litmanen 66)
MILAN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 42,500.
Ajax: Van der Sar — Reiziger, Blind, Rijkaard, F De Boer, R De Boer, George, Davids (Seedorf 90), Kluivert (Van Vossen 76), Litmanen, Overmars.
Milan: Rossi — Nava, Maldini, Gullit, Galli, Baresi, Sordo (Lentini 74), Donadoni, Boban, Savicevic, Orlando (Stroppa 69).

AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
AEK ATHENS 0
Att: 25,000 *(in Vienna)*.
Salzburg: Konrad — Lainer, Winklhofer, Mladenovic, Pfeifenberger, Aigner, Jurcevic, Artner (Freissegger 67), Hasenhuettl (Stadler 46), Feiersinger, Huetter.
AEK: Atmatsidis — Agorogiannis, Karagiannis, Manolas, Sabanadzovic, Vlachos, Saravakos (Kopitsis 72), Savevski, Kostis, Tsartas, Kassapis.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

1st rnd — 1st leg
(September 15 unless stated)

BESIKTAS 2 (Oktay 27, Ertugrul 35)
HJK HELSINKI 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 37,500.

BODO/GLIMT 3 (Staurvik 1, Johnsen 32, 58)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Bertarelli 46, Platt 68)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,015

BRONDBY 3 (Brian Jensen 19 pen, Bo Hansen 56, Bjur 66)
FC TIRANA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,035.

CHELSEA 4 (Furlong 2, Sinclair 4, Rocastle 52, Wise 69)
VIKTORIA ZIZKOV 2 (Majoros 35, 41)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 22,093.

CROATIA ZAGREB 3 (Jelicic 2, Soldo 40, Pamic 65)
AUXERRE 1 (Diomede 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 18,000.

CSKA MOSCOW 2 (Mamchur 50, Sergeyev 73)
FERENCVAROS 1 (Christiansen 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000.

DUNDEE UNITED 3 (Petric 16, Nixon 66, Hannah 69)
TATRAN PRESOV 2 (Skalka 10, Zvara 41 pen)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 9,454.

GLORIA BISTRITA 2 (Raduta 49, Lungu 51)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Esnaider 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,000.

GRASSHOPPER 3 (Bickel 41, Koller 52, Subiat 85)
CHERNOMORETS ODESSA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,600

MARIBOR BRANIK 1 (Bozgo 46)
FK AUSTRIA 1 (Prosenik 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000.

OMONIA NICOSIA 1 (Malekkos 72)
ARSENAL 3 (Merson 37, 78, Wright 50)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Marcal (Por)
Omonia: Christou — Christodoulou, Panagiotsu, Constantinou, Christofi, Andreon, Kantilos (Kizilazvili 58), Savvides, Gogritsiani, Malekkas, Xurupas (Kaifas 66).
Arsenal: Seaman —

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	2	1	0	3	1	3	
Hajduk Split	2	1	0	1	0	3	
Steaua	2	0	1	0	1	1	
Anderlecht	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

GROUP D

AEK ATHENS 1 (Savevski 30)
AJAX 2 (Litmanen 33, Kluivert 63)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000.
AEK: Atmatsides — Agoroyannis, Karayannis (Mirtsekis 73), Manolas, Kasapis, Vlahos, Saravakos, Savevski, Kopitsis, Tsartas (Dimitriades 63), Costis.
Ajax: Van der Sar — Reiziger, Blind, Seedorf, F De Boer, R De Boer (Kreek 75), George, Davids, Kluivert, Litmanen, Overmars (Van Vossen 65).

MILAN 3 (Stroppa 40, Simone 59, 64)
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,475.
Milan: Rossi — Tassotti, Panucci, Gullit, Maldini, Baresi (Galli 21), Stroppa, Desailly, Boban, Albertini, Simone (Massaro 75).
Salzburg: Konrad (Ilsanker 59) — Lainer, Winklhofer, Mladenovic, Furstaller, Aigner (Hiden 59), Jurcevic, Artner, Pfeifenberger, Feiersinger, Kocijan (Hutter 59).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Milan	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
AEK Athens	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Aus. Salzburg	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

❒ *GROUP winners and runners-up qualify for the quarter-finals, to be played over two legs on March 1 & 15, 1995. Semi-finals over two legs on April 5 & 19. Final on May 24.*

FIXTURES

GROUP A
Oct 19: IFK v Galatasaray, Man Utd v Barcelona
Nov 2: Galatasaray v IFK, Barcelona v Man Utd
Nov 23: IFK v Man Utd, Galatasaray v Barcelona
Dec 7: Barcelona v IFK, Man Utd v Galatasaray

GROUP B
Oct 19: Spartak v Bayern Munich, Kiev v Paris SG
Nov 2: Bayern Munich v Spartak, Paris SG v Kiev
Nov 23: Bayern Munich v Paris SG, Spartak v Kiev
Dec 7: Kiev v Bayern Munich, Paris SG v Spartak

GROUP C
Oct 19: Benfica v Steaua, Hajduk Split v Anderlecht
Nov 2: Steaua Bucharest v Benfica, Anderlecht v Hajduk Split
Nov 23: Steaua Bucharest v Anderlecht, Benfica v Hajduk Split
Dec 7: Anderlecht v Benfica, Hajduk Split v Steaua

GROUP D
Oct 19: Salzburg v Ajax, AEK v Milan
Nov 2: Milan v AEK, Ajax v Salzburg
Nov 23: Milan v Ajax, AEK v Salzburg
Dec 7: Salzburg v AEK, Ajax v AEK

CUP-WINNERS CUP

1st rnd — 2nd leg
(Sep 29 unless stated)

ARSENAL 3 (Wright 9, 70, Schwarz 31)
OMONIA NICOSIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,165.
Arsenal 6-1 on agg
Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Winterburn, Schwarz, Linighan, Adams, Jensen (Hillier 74), Wright, Smith, Merson (Campbell 74), Parlour.
Omonia Nicosia: Christou, Kalotheou, Panagiotsu, Constantinou, Christofi, Andreon (Kalasas 70), Kantilos, Sawvides, Christodoulou, Malekkas, Xurupas (Tutichi 57).

AUXERRE 3 (Diomede 41, Mahe 75, Lamouhi 90)
CROATIA ZAGREB 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.
Auxerre 4-3 on agg

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Staelens 3, 47, Eykelkamp 57)
SLIGO ROVERS 1 (Rooney 7)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000.
Club Brugge 5-2 on agg

CHERNOMORETS ODESSA 1 (Husseinov 9)
GRASSHOPPER 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Grasshopper 3-1 on agg

FERENCVAROS 2 (Lipcsei 23, Neagoe 45)
CSKA MOSCOW 1 (Radimov 15)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,000.
Ferencvaros 7-6 on pens; 3-3 agg

FEYENOORD 2 (Larsson 55, Heus 65 pen)
ZALGIRIS 1 (Vencevicius 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,500.
Feyenoord 3-2 on agg

FK AUSTRIA 3 (Flogel 21, Kubica 53, 56)
MARIBOR BRANIK 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.
FK Austria 4-1 on agg

HJK HELSINKI 1 (Rantanen 67)
BESIKTAS 1 (Oktay 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000.
Besiktas 3-1 on agg

LKS LODZ 0
FC PORTO 1 (Drulovic 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.
FC Porto 3-0 on agg

PANATHINAIKOS 6 (Alexoudis 7, 17, Warzycha 30, 87, 90, Borelli 66)
PIRIN 1 (Orachev 44)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 21,000.
Panathinaikos 8-1 on agg

SAMPDORIA 2 (Platt 14, Lombardo 36)
BODO/GLIMT 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000.
Sampdoria 4-3 on agg

FC TIRANA 0
BRONDBY 1 (Strudal 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,500.
Brondby 4-0 on agg

TATRAN PRESOV 3 (Zvara 11, 76, Kocis 19)
DUNDEE UNITED 1 (Nixon 3)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Tatran Presov 5-4 on agg

VIKTORIA ZIZKOV 0
CHELSEA 0
Att: 6,000 *(in Jablonec)*
Chelsea 4-2 on agg

WERDER BREMEN 2 (Bode 55, Basler 80)
MACCABI TEL AVIV 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Bremen 2-0 on agg

REAL ZARAGOZA 4 (Pardeza 11, Aguado 42, Poyet 49, 55)
GLORIA BISTRITA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000 *(in Valencia).*
Zaragoza 5-2 on agg

UEFA CUP

2nd rnd — 2nd leg
(Sep 27 unless stated)

ASTON VILLA 1 (Houghton 41)
INTERNAZIONALE 0
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 1-0. **Att:** 30,533 *(Sep 29).* **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Villa 4-3 on pens, 1-1 agg.
Shoot-out *(Inter first):* Bia 1-0, Parker 1-1; Bergkamp 2-1, Staunton 2-2; Seno 3-2, Townsend 3-3; Fontolan wide, Whittingham saved; Sosa hit bar, King 4-3.
Villa: Spink, Barrett, Staunton, Ehiogu, McGrath, Richardson (Parker 99), Houghton, Townsend, Saunders (Whittingham 19), Atkinson, King.
Inter: Pagliuca, Bergomi, Conte (Orlando 112), Paganin, Festa, Bia, Seno, Berti, Pancev (Fontolan 62), Bergkamp, Sosa.

ARIS SALONIKA 1 (Sapountzis 47)
GKS KATOWICE 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-0. **Att:** 18,000.
GKS 4-3 on pens, 1-1 agg

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Guerrero 17, A Panayiotou og 24, Andrinua 89)
ANORTHOSIS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000
Bilbao 3-2 on agg

BEKESCSABA 1 (Csato 77)
TEKSTILSHIK KAMYSHIN 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000.
Tekstilshik Kamyshin 6-2 on agg

CHARLEROI 2 (Balog 90, Misse 91)
RAPID BUCHAREST 1 (Tira 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Rapid Bucharest 3-2 on agg

FC COPENHAGEN 1 (Hoijer 45 pen)
SLOVAN 1 (Negro 24)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,232.
Slovan 2-1 on agg

DINAMO BUCHAREST 3 (Ceausila 6, Niculescu 51, Lica 82)
TRABZONSPOR 3 (Kuciuk 21, Buiuk 23, Mehmet 78)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 7,000.
Trabzonspor 5-4 on agg

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Dickhaut 9, Yeboah 84)
OLIMPIJA LJUBLJANA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000.
Eintracht 3-1 on agg

FENERBAHCE 1 (Bulent 60)
CANNES 5 (Tayfur og 21, Horlaville 24, 63, Micoud 53, Veira 79)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000.
Cannes 9-1 on agg

GORNIK ZABRZE 1 (Baluszynski 30)
ADMIRA 1 (Litovchenko 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,500.
Admira Wacker 6-3 on agg

JUVENTUS 5 (Ravanelli 9, 65, 69, 81, 83)
CSKA SOFIA 1 (Mihtarski 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000.
Juventus 7-4 on agg

KAISERSLAUTERN 4 (Kuka 56, 88, Wagner 60, Haber 81)
IA AKRANES 1 (Gislason 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,070.
Kaiserslautern 8-1 on agg

KISPEST-HONVED 1 (Illes 58)
TWENTE ENSCHEDE 3 (Nurens 34, Ellerman 67, Boerebach 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000.
Kispest-Honved 5-4 on agg

LA CORUNA 4 (Bebeto 81, 98, 114, Donato 107 pen)
ROSENBORG 1 (Brattbakk 92)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-0. **Att:** 21,000.
La Coruna 4-2 on agg, aet

LAZIO 4 (Ostrowsky og 46, Favalli 51, Boksic 74, Fuser 84)
MINSK DYNAMO 1 (Kachuro 9)
HT: 0-1. 35,000.
Lazio 4-1 on agg

LILLESTROM 0
BORDEAUX 2 (Zidane 2, Fournier 15)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,003.
Bordeaux 5-1 on agg

MARITIMO 1 (Alves 60)
AARAU 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500.
Maritimo 1-0 on agg

MARSEILLE 3 (Cascarino 53, 89, Ferreri 88)
OLYMPIAKOS 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000
Marseille 5-1 on agg

MOSCOW DYNAMO 0
SERAING 1 (Shaassens 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000.
Moscow Dynamo won on away goals, 4-4 agg

MOTHERWELL 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Riedle 54, 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,362 (Sep 28).
Dortmund 3-0 on agg

MYPA 1 (Gronholm 75)
BOAVISTA 1 (Artur 89 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,616.
Boavista 3-2 on agg

NANTES 3 (Quedec 29, 61, Loko 75)
ROTOR VOLGOGRAD 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000.
Nantes 5-3 on agg

NEWCASTLE 5 (Lee 11, Cole 26, 39, 88, Beardsley 36pen)
ANTWERP 2 (Kiekens 75, Severyns 77)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 29,737.
Newcastle 10-2 on agg

OB ODENSE 5 (Nedergard 5, 85, Schjonberg 25, 42 pen, Thorup 40)
LINFIELD 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 4,518.
OB 6-1 on agg

PARMA 2 (Zola 24, 72)
VITESSE ARNHEM 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,081.
Parma 2-1 on agg

PSV EINDHOVEN 0
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 0
Att: 21,500
Leverkusen 5-4 on agg

SION 2 (Marin 89, Orlando 101)
APOLLON LIMASSOL 3 (Krcmarevic 49, Spoljarich 66, Csepovic 77)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-3. **Att:** 5,000.
Sion 5-4 on agg

SKONTO RIGA 0
NAPOLI 1 (Buso 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,589.
Napoli 3-0 on agg

SLAVIA PRAGUE 2 (Suchoparek 26, Bejbl 57)
AIK STOCKHOLM 2 (Lidman 35, Sundgren 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,500.
AIK 2-2 on agg

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Sa Pinto 2, Oceano 30)
REAL MADRID 1 (Laudrup 15)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 55,000.
Madrid on away goals, agg 2-2

FC TIROL 5 (Cerny 4, Stoeger 32, Danek 35, 56, Janeschitz 89)
TBILISI DYNAMO 1 (S Arveladze 36)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 7,000.
FC Tirol 8-2 on agg

TRELLEBORGS 2 (Joachim Karlsson 50, 85)
BLACKBURN 2 (Sutton 18, Shearer 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,730.
Trelleborgs 3-2 on agg

SECOND ROUND DRAWS

CUP-WINNERS CUP —
FC Porto (Por) v Ferencvaros (Hun), Club Brugge (Bel) v Panathinaikos (Gre), Sampdoria (Ita) v Grasshopper Zurich (Swi), Besiktas (Tur) v Auxerre (Fra), Feyenoord (Hol) v Werder Bremen (Ger), Austria Vienna (Aus) v Chelsea (Eng), Arsenal (Eng) v Brondby (Den), Tatran Presov (Slovak) v Real Zaragoza (Spa).
Matches to be played over two legs on Oct 20 & Nov 3.

UEFA CUP —
Newcastle (Eng) v Athletic Bilbao (Spa), GKS Katowice (Pol) v Bordeaux (Fra), Kispest Honved (Hun) v Bayer Leverkusen (Ger), Juventus (Ita) v Maritimo (Por), Parma (Ita) v AIK Stockholma (Swe), Kaiserslautern (Ger) v Odense (Den), Admira Wacker (Aus) v Cannes (Fra), Moscow Dynamo (Rus) v Real Madrid (Spa), Rapid Bucharest (Rom) v Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger), Trabzonspor (Tur) v Aston Villa (Eng), Lazio (Ita) v Trelleborgs (Swe), Sion (Swi) v Marseille (Fra), Slovan Bratislava (Slovak) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger), Tekstilchik Kamychine (Rus) v Nantes (Fra), FC Tirol Innsbruck (Aus) v La Coruna (Spa), Boavista (Por) v Napoli (Ita).
Matches to be played over two legs on Oct 18 & Nov 1.

INTERNATIONAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Aug 4 = Niamey — friendly
NIGER 0
TOGO 0

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Aug 16 = Niamey — friendly
NIGER 3
TOGO 2

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23

Aug 23 = Ougadougou — friendly
BURKINA FASO 0
NIGER 0

Aug 23 = Windhoek — friendly
NAMIBIA 1
BOTSWANA 1

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Aug 25 = Windhoek — friendly
NAMIBIA 2
BOTSWANA 3

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Aug 31 = Skopje — friendly
MACEDONIA 0
TURKEY 2 (Markovski og 44, Arif 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Dzolic (Yug)
Macedonia: Straytev — Grozdanov, Jovanovski, Najdoski (Marian Stojkovski 43), Kanatlarovski — Markovski, Mehmed Nejmettin, Serafimovski, Micevski (Tomovski 62) — Mitko Stojkovski, Boskovski.
Turkey: Engin — Recep (Tayfur 46), Bulent, Korkmaz, Ogun — Tugay, Ertugrul (Arif 53), Oguz — Ilker, Saffet (Abdullah 63), Hakan, Orhan (Mehmet 77).

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Sep 1 = Chisinau — friendly
MOLDOVA 2 (Kleshchenko 7, 40)
AZERBAIJAN 1 (Alekperov 85)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Janet (Mol)
Moldova: Koselev (Ivanov 46) — Secu, E Karas, Pogorelov (Testimitanu 46), Belous — S Stroenko, Nani, Curtianu (A Stroenko 46), Kleshchenko (Kosse 46) — Oprea (Capatina 46), Spiridon.
Azerbaijan: E Kasanov — Allahverdiev, Asadov (Aliev 46), T Ahmedov (T Gasanov 46), Karaev — Abousev (M Gousainov 46), I Gousainov, E Agmedov, Kourbanov (Mardanov 60) — Alekperov, Soukeymanov (Ryzaiev 59).

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Sep 4 = Luanda — Af Chp
ANGOLA 2 (Tubia 6, Merodac 40 pen)
NAMIBIA 0
HT: 2-0.

Sep 4 = Gaborone — Af Chp
BOTSWANA 0
GUINEA 1 (Moussa Syllla 89)
HT: 0-0.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Sep 6 = Sion — friendly
SWITZERLAND 1 (A Sutter 20)
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Ramos (Fra)
Switzerland: Pascolo (Zuberbuhler 60) — Hottiger (Mazzarelli 78), Herr (Henchoz 46), Geiger (Vega 46), Thuler — Sylvestre, Kohler (Bickel 46), Yakin, A Sutter (S Fournier 46) — Knup (Subiat 46), Chapuisat (Grassi 46).
UAE: Fairouz — Abdel Rahman, Saleh Jumaa, Al Dhaheri (Abdul Rasoul 76), Ismail Rashid — Mohamed Ali, Ahmed Ibrahim (Abdel Khaleq 46; Nasser Khamis 88), Abdul Razak (Bukhalt Saad 37), Hussain Ghulloum (Munter Ali 46) — Al Taliani, Khamis Saad (Al Thani 67).

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Sep 21 = Santiago — friendly
CHILE 2 (Ramallo 27, Pinedo 81)
BOLIVIA 1 (Tudor 55 pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Sep 27 = Tokyo — friendly
JAPAN 0
AUSTRALIA 0
Att: 12,000.

INDEPENDENCE TOURNAMENT
(Doha, Qatar)
GROUP A: Oman 2 Qatar 0, Qatar 2 Sudan 0, Oman 1 Sudan 1.
GROUP B: Bangladesh 1 Yemen 0, India 4 Bangladesh 2, Yemen 1 India 0.
SEMI-FINALS: Qatar 2 Yemen 0, Oman 4 India 1.
FINAL: Oman 2 Qatar 1.

AFRO-ASIAN CLUB CUP
1ST LEG *(Sep 11):* Zamalek (Egy) 2 Farmers (Thai) 1

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
Group 1: Israel 2 Poland 2, Romania 5 Azerbaijan 2, Slovakia 0 France 3.
Group 2: Belgium 7 Armenia 0, Macedonia 5 Denmark 3, Cyprus 0 Spain 6.
Group 3: Hungary 2 Turkey 1. Group 4: Estonia 1 Croatia 2, Ukraine 3 Lithuania 2, Slovenia 1 Italy 1.
Group 5: Czech Rep 1 Malta 0, Hungary 4 Byelorussia 0, Luxembourg 0 Holland 4.
Group 6: England 0 Portugal 0, Latvia 1 Rep Ireland 1.
Group 7: Georgia 3 Moldova 0.
Group 8: Finland 1 Scotland 0.

OTHER MATCHES
Sep 7 *(Gotzis):* Austria U-21 1 (Kraiger 59) Wales U-21 1 (Taylor 27).

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Semi-finals, 2nd leg

Aug 17 — In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 2 (Bassedas, Flores)
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 1 (Valenciano)
Agg: 3-3, Velez won 5-4 on pens
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Ivan Guerrero (Chi).
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, Gomez, Bassedas, Pompei, Asad (Fernandez), Flores (Fernandez).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Valber, Junior Bahiano, Andre, Cafu, Gilmar, Axel, Palhinha (Juninho), Muller, Euler.
● Velez Sarsfield, with midfield control, missed chances in attack through Flores and Asad in spite of good moves generated by Gomez and Basualdo in midfield. Sao Paulo were short of attacking ideas.

Final — 2nd leg

Sep 1 — In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Muller pen)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Att: 93,000.
Agg: 1-1, Velez won 5-3 on pens
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Junior Baiano, Valber, Andrew, Cafu, Gilmar, Axel, Palhinha, Muller, Euler (Subs: Juninho, Vitor).
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Trotta, Almandoz, Pellegrino, Zandona, Cardozo, J Basualdo (Pompei), Gomez, Bassedas, Asad, Flores (Husain).
● Sao Paulo did most of the attacking but lacked ideas to break through, except for getting a penalty, even when Velez Sarsfield were reduced to 10 men for the last 25 minutes, Cardozo being sent off. One of the poorest finals seen for a long time ended in stalemate and had to be decided by the hihghly unsatisfactory method of a penalty shoot-out, and Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert became Velez Sarsfield's hero for the third time in this competition by saving a penalty and scoring one in the shoot-out to give his team the psychological advantage of a 2-0 lead they never lost.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)

1st round — 1st leg

Sep 7 — In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Francescoli pen., Amato)
NACIONAL (Uru) 2 (Canobbio 2)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Chi)
River Plate: Burgos, H. Daiz, Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Toresani, (Gallardo), Astrada, Berti, Francescoli (Amato), Cedres, Crespo.
Nacional: Grandi, Mendez, Canals, Rodriguez, Dominguez, Larre, Abeijon, Lemos, Gutierrez, Canobbio, O'Neill.
● Uruguayan midfielder Enzo Francescoli returned to River Plate after eight years in Europe and put them on the way to victory with an 18th-minute penalty, but although River Plate had territorial advantage, they could not win — not even with a second penalty 15 minutes from the end which Grandi saved from Crespo. Former successful penalty taker Francescoli had gone off injured by that time.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (M. Sanabria, Delvalle)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg).
Olimpia: Battaglia, Vargas, Caniza, Caceres, Suarez, Sotelo, V. Sanabria, Guirland (Bourdier), Delvalle, Cardozo, M. Sanabria (Campos).
Cruzeiro: Dide, Andrade, Rogelio, Celio Lucio, Nonato, Douglas, Toninho, Juan Carlos, Ramos (Macale), Mario Tilico (Weber), Sorato.
● Olimpia won easily against rivals from whom a lot more was expected. Play was more even in the latter stages when Olimpia slowed down, but never lost control.

Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez (Ferreyra), Guirland (Campos), V. Sanabria, Franco, Sotelo, M. Sanabria, Cardozo.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Junior Bahiano, Valver, Vitor, Gilmar, Axel, (Thiago), Andre, Doriva, Palhinha, Muller, Euller.
● Olimpia were well on top, but could only get a goal eight minutes from the end when they were down to 10 men, Ramirez being sent off after 80 minutes. But it was not enough as the aggregate score was left 1-1 and Sao Paulo won the penalty shootout on the last shot of the five-shot series.

Final — 1st leg

Aug 25 — In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 1 (Asad)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Joaquin Torres (Col). **Att:** 42,000.
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Zandona, Trotta, Sotomayor, Cardozo, Basualdo, Gomez, Bassedas, Pompei, Asad (Husain), Flores (Fernandez).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Valber, Junior Bahiano, Andre, Cafu, Gilmar, Axel, Palhinha (Juninho), Muller, Euler.
● Velez Sarsfield, with midfield control, missed chances in attack through Flores and Asad in spite of good moves generated by Gomez and Basualdo in midfield. Sao Paulo were short of attacking ideas.

Final — 2nd leg

Sep 1 — In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Muller pen)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Att: 93,000.
Agg: 1-1, Velez won 5-3 on pens
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Vitor, Junior Baiano, Valber, Andrew, Cafu, Gilmar, Axel, Palhinha, Muller, Euler (Subs: Juninho, Vitor).
Velez Sarsfield: Chilavert, Trotta, Almandoz, Pellegrino, Zandona, Cardozo, J Basualdo (Pompei), Gomez, Bassedas, Asad, Flores (Husain).
● Sao Paulo did most of the attacking but lacked ideas to break through, except for getting a penalty, even when Velez Sarsfield were reduced to 10 men for the last 25 minutes, Cardozo being sent off. One of the poorest finals seen for a long time ended in stalemate and had to be decided by the hihghly unsatisfactory method of a penalty shoot-out, and Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert became Velez Sarsfield's hero for the third time in this competition by saving a penalty and scoring one in the shoot-out to give his team the psychological advantage of a 2-0 lead they never lost.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)

1st round — 1st leg

Sep 7 — In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Francescoli pen., Amato)
NACIONAL (Uru) 2 (Canobbio 2)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Chi)
River Plate: Burgos, H. Daiz, Ayala, Corti, Altamirano, Toresani, (Gallardo), Astrada, Berti, Francescoli (Amato), Cedres, Crespo.
Nacional: Grandi, Mendez, Canals, Rodriguez, Dominguez, Larre, Abeijon, Lemos, Gutierrez, Canobbio, O'Neill.
● Uruguayan midfielder Enzo Francescoli returned to River Plate after eight years in Europe and put them on the way to victory with an 18th-minute penalty, but although River Plate had territorial advantage, they could not win — not even with a second penalty 15 minutes from the end which Grandi saved from Crespo. Former successful penalty taker Francescoli had gone off injured by that time.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 2 (M. Sanabria, Delvalle)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg).
Olimpia: Battaglia, Vargas, Caniza, Caceres, Suarez, Sotelo, V. Sanabria, Guirland (Bourdier), Delvalle, Cardozo, M. Sanabria (Campos).
Cruzeiro: Dide, Andrade, Rogelio, Celio Lucio, Nonato, Douglas, Toninho, Juan Carlos, Ramos (Macale), Mario Tilico (Weber), Sorato.
● Olimpia won easily against rivals from whom a lot more was expected. Play was more even in the latter stages when Olimpia slowed down, but never lost control.

Sep 8 — In Santos, Brazil.
SANTOS (Bra) 1 (Rambert og)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Alfredo Rodas (Ecu).
Santos: Edinho, Indio, Marcelo Fernandes, Junior, Silva, Dinho, Gallo, Neto (Ceresa), Paulinho Kobayashi, Macedo (Serginho), Guga.
Independiente: Islas, Graviotto, Rotchen, Serrizuela, Rios, Cagna, Perez, Lopez (Gareca), Garnero (Parodi), Usuriaga, Rambert.
● Santos were more practical under the conditions of a muddy ground and heavy rain in a fairly even match.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

Aug 17 — In Lima, Peru — friendly
PERU 2 (Palacios, Saenz)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,400.
Peru: Pizarro, Jorge Soto, Dulanto, Jose Soto, Ubilluz, Jayo, Solano (Rivera), Carranza, Palacios, Muchotrigo (Palomino), Saenza.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Coronel (Carabali), B. Tenorio, Montano, Capurro, Achilie, Fajardo, Carabali, Ron (Cubero), Hurtado (Maldonoado), Delgado.
● Peru played a short passing game with good combinations against a more defensive Ecuador.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS

Aug 10: Universitario (Peru) 1 Universidad Catolica (Chile).
Aug 28: UNAM 1 Alianza Lima 0.
Aug 31: U. de Chile 1 Lanus (Arg) 0.

1994 LIBERTADORES CUP

First Round

Group 1

(Colombia — Paraguay)

02.03.94	Olimpia (P) v Cerro Portena (P)	1-0
04.03.93	Junior (C) v Indep Medellin (C)	0-1
09.03.94	Indep Medellin v Olimpia	0-0
12.03.93	Junior v Olimpia	0-0
16.03.94	Indep Medellin v C Porteno	3-0
18.03.94	Junior v Cerro Porteno	3-2
24.03.94	Indep Medellin v Junior	0-1
05.04.94	Olimpia v Indep Medellin	0-2
08.04.94	C Porteno v Indep Medellin	0-0
12.04.94	Olimpia v Junior	1-0
15.04.94	Cerro Porteno v Junior	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Medellin	6	3	2	1	6	1	8
Olimpia	6	3	2	1	5	3	8
Jun Barranqilla	6	2	1	3	4	5	5
Cerro Porteno	6	1	1	4	4	10	3

Group 2

(Argentina — Brazil)

13.02.94	Velez (A) v Boca Juniors (A)	1-1
02.03.94	Palmeiras (B) v Cruzeiro (B)	2-0
09.03.94	Cruzeiro v Velez Sarsfield	1-1
09.03.94	Palmeiras v Boca Juniors	6-1
16.03.94	Boca Juniors v Cruzeiro	1-2
17.03.94	Velez Sarsfield v Palmeiras	1-0
23.03.94	Boca Juniors v Velez Sarsfield	1-2
25.03.94	Cruzeiro v Palmeiras	2-1
30.03.94	Boca Juniors v Palmeiras	2-1
31.03.94	Velez Sarsfield v Cruzeiro	2-0
06.04.94	Cruzeiro v Boca Juniors	2-1
07.04.94	Palmeiras v Velez Sarsfield	4-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	6	3	2	1	8	7	8
Cruzeiro	6	3	1	2	7	8	7
Palmeiras	6	3	0	3	14	7	6
Boca Juniors	6	1	1	4	7	14	3

Group 3

(Ecuador — Peru)

02.03.94	Universitario (P) v Alianza (P)	0-1
02.03.94	Emelec (E) v Barcelona (E)	0-1
08.03.94	Barcelona v Universitario	0-0
11.03.94	Emelec v Universitario	2-0
15.03.94	Barcelona v Alianza	3-0
18.03.94	Emelec v Alianza	3-0
23.03.94	Alianza v Universitario	1-2
23.03.94	Barcelona v Emelec	0-1
05.04.94	Alianza v Barcelona	2-1
08.04.94	Universitario v Barcelona	0-0
12.04.94	Alianza v Emelec	2-2
15.04.94	Universitario v Emelec	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	6	3	1	2	9	4	7
Universitario	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Barcelona	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Alianza	6	2	1	3	6	11	5

Group 4

(Chile — Uruguay)

02.03.94	U. Espanola (C) v Colo Colo (C)	1-2
02.03.94	Defensor (U) v Nacional (U)	1-0
08.03.94	Union Espanola v Defensor	1-0
13.03.94	Colo Colo v Defensor	2-0
15.03.94	Union Espanola v Nacional	1-0
18.03.94	Colo Colo v Nacional	4-2
23.03.94	Colo Colo v Union Espanola	3-1
23.03.94	Nacional v Defensor	1-1
05.04.94	Defensor v Colo Colo	0-0
08.04.94	Nacional v Colo Colo	2-0
12.04.94	Defensor v Union Espanola	1-1
15.04.94	Nacional v Union Espanola	0-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	6	4	1	1	11	6	9
Union Espanola	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
Defensor	6	1	3	2	3	5	5
Nacional	6	1	1	4	5	8	3

Group 5

(Bolivia — Venezuela)

FC AK-Regina won by walkover
11.12.93 Sithoc v Solidarite Scolaire.....4-2
18.12.93 Solidarite Scolaire v Sithoc.....1-0
Sithoc won 4-3 on agg

2ND ROUND
02.02.94 Sithoc v Newtown Utd.....0-2
05.02.94 Sithoc v Newtown Utd.....0-1
Newtown Utd won 3-0 on agg
03.05.94 FC AK-Regina v US Robert.....1-1
11.05.94 US Robert v FC AK-Regina.....3-1
US Robert won 4-2 on agg

3RD ROUND
08.06.94 US Robert v Newtown Utd.....4-0
10.06.94 US Robert v Newtown Utd.....0-0
US Robert won 4-0 on agg

GROUP B

PRELIM ROUND
06.12.93 RC Aruba v Robin Hood.....2-1
11.01.93 Robin Hood v RC Aruba.....7-0
Robin Hood won 8-2 on agg
15.12.93 SV Riverplate v Leo Victor.....0-0
19.12.93 SV Riverplate v Leo Victor.....0-2
Leo Victor won 2-0 on agg

1ST ROUND
08.12.93 Club Franciscain v RS de PAP 4-1
05.01.94 RS de PAP v Club Franciscain 1-2
Club Franciscain won 6-3 on agg
13.02.94 Robin Hood v Leo Victor 1-0
20.02.94 Leo Victor v Robin Hood 4-2
Leo Victor won 4-3 on agg
20.12.93 Jong Colombia v Violette 2-0
22.12.93 Jong Colombia v Violette 0-1
Jong Colombia won 2-1 on agg
15.01.94 Parham v US Sinnamary 0-1
26.01.94 US Sinnamary v Parham *2-0
*USS won 3-0 on agg. * = win by forfeit*

2ND ROUND
02.03.94 Franciscain v US Sinnamary....5-0
16.03.94 US Sinnamary v Franciscain....2-0
Club Franciscain won 5-2 on agg
13.03.94 Jong Colombia v Leo Victor 1-0
27.03.94 Leo Victor v Jong Colombia 1-0
Agg: 1-1, Jong Colombia won 5-4 on pens

3RD ROUND
27.04.94 C. Franciscain v J. Colombia...2-1
11.05.94 J. Colombia v C. Franciscain...2-0
Jong Colombia won 3-2 on agg

FINAL ROUND
07.09.94 US Robert v Jong Colombia....3-0
17.09.94 Jong Colombia v US Robert...2-0
US Robert won 3-2 on agg

NORTH & CENTRAL ZONE

GROUP A

1ST ROUND
12.12.93 Acroz v Comunicaciones.....1-3
22.12.93 Comunicaciones v Acroz.....2-1
Comunicaciones won 5-2 on agg

2ND ROUND
26.01.94 Comunicaciones v Cartagines.2-0
02.02.94 Cartagines v Comunicaciones.4-0
Cartagines won 4-2 on agg
01.12.93 Petrotela v Monterrey 4-1
07.12.93 Monterrey v Petrotela 3-2
Petrotela won 6-3 on agg

3RD ROUND
16.03.94 Cartagines v Petroltela 1-0
23.03.94 Petrotela v Cartagines 2*1
Agg: 2-2, Cartagines won 5-4 on pens

GROUP B

1ST ROUND
15.12.93 Aurora v La Victoria 2-2
26.02.94 La Victoria v Aurora 1-3
Aurora won 5-3 on agg

2ND ROUND
16.01.94 Aurora v Juventus.....4-0
26.02.94 Juventus v Aurora.....0-5
Aurora won 9-0 on agg
29.01.94 Alianza v LA Salsa 1-0
06.02.94 LA Salsa v Alianza 2-2
Alianza won 3-2 on agg

3RD ROUND
06.04.94 Aurora v Alianza.....1-1
10.04.94 Alianza v Aurora.....2-1
Alianza won 3-2 on agg

GROUP C

1ST ROUND
08.12.93 Diriangen v Herediano 0-5
15.12.93 Herediano v Diriangen 4-2
Herediano won 9-2 on agg

2ND ROUND
30.01.94 Olimpia v Herediano.....0-0
12.02.94 Herediano v Olimpia.....2-0
Herediano won 2-0 on agg
05.12.93 LA Firpo v Atlante.....1-4
08.12.93 Atlante v LA Firpo 2-1
Atlante won 6-2 on agg

3RD ROUND
22.03.94 Herediano v Atlante.....3-3
31.03.94 Atlante v Herediano 3-1
Atlante won 6-4 on agg

SEMI-FINALS

To be arranged

1996 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS

GROUP 1
(France, Romania, Poland, Israel, Slovakia, Azerbaijan)
04.09.94 Israel v Poland 2-1
07.09.94 Slovakia v France.....0-0
07.09.94 Romania v Azerbaijan 3-0
08.10.94 France v Romania.....0-0
12.10.94 Israel v Slovakia
12.10.94 Poland v Azerbaijan
12.11.94 Romania v Slovakia
16.11.94 Poland v France
16.11.94 Azerbaijan v Israel
14.12.94 Azerbaijan v France
14.12.94 Israel v Romania
29.03.95 Romania v Poland
29.03.95 Israel v France
29.03.95 Slovakia v Azerbaijan
25.04.95 Poland v Israel
26.04.95 France v Slovakia
26.04.95 Azerbaijan v Romania
07.06.95 Poland v Slovakia
07.06.95 Romania v Israel
16.08.95 France v Poland
16.08.95 Azerbaijan v Slovakia
06.09.95 France v Azerbaijan
06.09.95 Slovakia v Israel
06.09.95 Poland v Romania
11.10.95 Romania v France
11.10.95 Israel v Azerbaijan
11.10.95 Slovakia v Poland
15.11.95 Slovakia v Romania
15.11.95 Azerbaijan v Poland
15.11.95 France v Israel

GROUP 2
(Denmark, Spain, Belgium, Macedonia, Cyprus, Armenia)
07.09.94 Cyprus v Spain 1-2
07.09.94 Macedonia v Denmark.....1-1
07.09.94 Belgium v Armenia.....2-0
08.10.94 Armenia v Cyprus 0-0
12.10.94 Denmark v Belgium
12.10.94 Macedonia v Spain
16.11.94 Belgium v Macedonia
16.11.94 Spain v Denmark
16.11.94 Cyprus v Armenia
17.12.94 Belgium v Spain
17.12.94 Macedonia v Cyprus
29.03.95 Spain v Belgium
29.03.95 Cyprus v Denmark
26.04.95 Armenia v Spain
26.04.95 Belgium v Cyprus
26.04.95 Denmark v Macedonia
10.05.95 Armenia v Macedonia
07.06.95 Denmark v Cyprus
07.06.95 Macedonia v Belgium
07.06.95 Spain v Armenia
16.08.95 Armenia v Denmark
06.09.95 Belgium v Denmark
06.09.95 Spain v Cyprus
06.09.95 Macedonia v Armenia
07.10.95 Armenia v Belgium
11.10.95 Denmark v Spain
11.10.95 Cyprus v Macedonia
15.11.95 Spain v Macedonia
15.11.95 Cyprus v Belgium
15.11.95 Denmark v Armenia

GROUP 3
(Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, Iceland, Turkey)
07.09.94 Iceland v Sweden 0-1
07.09.94 Hungary v Turkey.....2-2
12.10.94 Turkey v Iceland
12.10.94 Switzerland v Sweden
16.11.94 Switzerland v Iceland
16.11.94 Sweden v Hungary
14.12.94 Turkey v Switzerland
29.03.95 Turkey v Sweden
29.03.95 Hungary v Switzerland
26.04.95 Hungary v Sweden
26.04.95 Switzerland v Turkey
01.06.95 Sweden v Iceland
11.06.95 Iceland v Hungary
16.08.95 Iceland v Switzerland
06.09.95 Sweden v Switzerland
06.09.95 Turkey v Hungary
11.10.95 Switzerland v Hungary
11.10.95 Iceland v Turkey
11.11.95 Hungary v Iceland
15.11.95 Sweden v Turkey

GROUP 4
(Italy, Ukraine, Croatia, Lithuania, Estonia, Slovenia)
04.09.94 Estonia v Croatia.....0-2
07.09.94 Slovenia v Italy.....1-1
07.09.94 Ukraine v Lithuania 0-2
08.10.94 Estonia v Italy.....0-2
09.10.94 Croatia v Lithuania 2-0
12.10.94 Ukraine v Slovenia
13.11.94 Ukraine v Estonia
16.11.94 Slovenia v Lithuania
16.11.94 Italy v Croatia
25.03.95 Italy v Estonia
25.03.95 Croatia v Ukraine
29.03.95 Slovenia v Estonia
29.03.95 Ukraine v Italy
29.03.95 Lithuania v Croatia
26.04.95 Lithuania v Italy
26.04.95 Croatia v Slovenia
26.04.95 Estonia v Ukraine
07.06.95 Lithuania v Slovenia
11.06.95 Estonia v Slovenia
11.06.95 Ukraine v Croatia
16.08.95 Estonia v Lithuania
03.09.95 Croatia v Estonia
06.09.95 Italy v Slovenia
06.09.95 Lithuania v Ukraine
08.10.95 Croatia v Italy
11.10.95 Slovenia v Ukraine
11.10.95 Lithuania v Estonia
11.11.95 Italy v Ukraine
15.11.95 Slovenia v Croatia
15.11.95 Italy v Lithuania

GROUP 5
(Holland, Norway, Czech Republic, Byelorussia, Malta, Luxembourg)
06.09.94 Czech Rep v Malta.....6-1
07.09.94 Luxembourg v Holland 0-4
07.09.94 Norway v Byelorussia 1-0
12.10.94 Malta v Czech Rep
12.10.94 Byelorussia v Luxembourg
12.10.94 Norway v Holland
16.11.94 Byelorussia v Norway
16.11.94 Holland v Czech Rep
14.12.94 Malta v Norway
14.12.94 Holland v Luxembourg
22.02.95 Malta v Luxembourg
29.03.95 Czech Rep v Byelorussia
29.03.95 Luxembourg v Norway
29.03.95 Holland v Malta
26.04.95 Byelorussia v Malta
26.04.95 Czech Rep v Holland
26.04.95 Norway v Luxembourg
07.06.95 Byelorussia v Holland
07.06.95 Luxembourg v Czech Rep
07.06.95 Norway v Malta
16.08.95 Norway v Czech Rep
06.09.95 Czech Rep v Norway
06.09.95 Luxembourg v Malta
06.09.95 Holland v Byelorussia
07.10.95 Byelorussia v Czech Rep
11.10.95 Malta v Holland
11.10.95 Luxembourg v Byelorussia
12.11.95 Malta v Byelorussia
15.11.95 Czech Rep v Luxembourg
15.11.95 Holland v Norway

GROUP 6
(Republic of Ireland, Portugal, Northern Ireland, Austria, Latvia, Liechtenstein)
20.04.94 N. Ireland v Liechtenstein.....4-1
07.09.94 Liechtenstein v Austria.....0-4
07.09.94 N. Ireland v Portugal 1-2
07.09.94 Latvia v Rep. Ireland 0-3
09.10.94 Latvia v Portugal 1-3
12.10.94 Austria v N. Ireland
12.10.94 Rep. Ireland v Liechtenstein
13.11.94 Portugal v Austria
15.11.94 Liechtenstein v Latvia
16.11.94 N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland
18.12.94 Portugal v Liechtenstein
29.03.95 Rep. Ireland v N. Ireland
29.03.95 Austria v Latvia
26.04.95 Rep. Ireland v Portugal
26.04.95 Latvia v N. Ireland
26.04.95 Austria v Liechtenstein
03.06.95 Portugal v Latvia
03.06.95 Liechtenstein v Rep. Ireland
07.06.95 N. Ireland v Latvia
11.06.95 Rep. Ireland v Austria
15.08.95 Liechtenstein v Portugal
16.08.95 Latvia v Austria
03.09.95 Portugal v N. Ireland
06.09.95 Austria v Rep. Ireland
06.09.95 Latvia v Liechtenstein
11.10.95 Rep. Ireland v Latvia
11.10.95 Austria v Portugal
11.10.95 Liechtenstein v N. Ireland
15.11.95 Portugal v Rep. Ireland
15.11.95 N. Ireland v Austria

GROUP 7
(Germany, Wales, Bulgaria, Georgia, Albania, Moldova)
07.09.94 Wales v Albania 2-0
07.09.94 Georgia v Moldova 0-1
12.10.94 Moldova v Wales
12.10.94 Bulgaria v Georgia
16.11.94 Albania v Germany
16.11.94 Georgia v Wales
16.11.94 Bulgaria v Moldova
14.12.94 Wales v Bulgaria
14.12.94 Moldova v Germany
14.12.94 Albania v Georgia
18.12.94 Germany v Albania
29.03.95 Georgia v Germany
29.03.95 Bulgaria v Wales
29.03.95 Albania v Moldova
26.04.95 Germany v Wales
26.04.95 Moldova v Bulgaria
26.04.95 Georgia v Albania
07.06.95 Bulgaria v Germany
07.06.95 Wales v Georgia
07.06.95 Moldova v Albania
06.09.95 Germany v Georgia
06.09.95 Wales v Moldova
06.09.95 Albania v Bulgaria
07.10.95 Bulgaria v Albania
08.10.95 Germany v Moldova
11.10.95 Wales v Germany
11.10.95 Georgia v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Germany v Bulgaria
15.11.95 Albania v Wales
15.11.95 Moldova v Georgia

GROUP 8
(Russia, Greece, Scotland, Finland, Faroe Islands, San Marino)
07.09.94 Finland v Scotland 0-2
07.09.94 Faroe Islands v Greece.....1-5
12.10.94 Scotland v Faroe Islands
12.10.94 Greece v Finland
12.10.94 Russia v San Marino
16.11.94 Scotland v Russia
16.11.94 Greece v San Marino
16.11.94 Finland v Faroe Islands
14.12.94 Finland v San Marino
18.12.94 Greece v Scotland
29.03.94 Russia v Scotland
29.03.95 San Marino v Finland
26.04.95 San Marino v Scotland
26.04.95 Greece v Russia
26.04.95 Faroe Islands v Finland
06.05.95 Russia v Faroe Islands
25.05.95 Faroe Islands v San Marino
07.06.95 Faroe Islands v Scotland
07.06.95 San Marino v Russia
11.06.95 Finland v Greece
16.08.95 Scotland v Greece
16.08.95 Finland v Russia
06.09.95 Scotland v Finland
06.09.95 Faroe Islands v Russia
06.09.95 San Marino v Greece
11.10.95 Russia v Greece
11.10.95 San Marino v Faroe Islands
15.11.95 Scotland v San Marino
15.11.95 Russia v Finland
15.11.95 Greece v Faroe Islands

EURO TABLES

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AaB Aalborg	6	5	0	1	20	9	10
Brondby	6	4	1	1	11	5	9
Lyngby	6	3	2	1	12	8	8
OB Odense	6	3	1	2	10	7	7
Naestved	6	1	5	0	9	8	7
Silkeborg	6	0	5	1	6	9	5
Ikast	6	1	2	3	8	9	4
Fremad Amager	6	2	0	4	8	13	4
AGF Aarhus	6	1	2	3	4	11	4
FC Copenhagen	6	0	2	4	8	17	2

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MyPa	21	12	4	5	37	20	40
TPV	22	12	4	6	34	23	40
RoPS	22	10	8	4	29	20	38
HJK	21	10	7	4	34	23	37
Haka	22	9	4	9	28	26	31
FC Jazz	22	9	3	10	35	32	30
FinnPa	22	7	9	6	24	25	30
Jaro	22	8	6	8	30	36	30
TPS	22	8	5	9	33	29	29
Kuusysi	22	7	4	11	38	43	25
MP	22	6	6	10	19	25	24
FC Oulu	22	5	9	8	24	31	24
Lives	22	6	5	11	29	39	23
KuPS	22	6	2	14	22	44	20

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Avenir Beggen	6	4	2	0	19	9	10
Jeunesse Esch	6	4	1	1	13	5	9
CS Grevenmacher	6	4	1	1	8	4	9
F91 Dudelange	6	3	2	1	17	7	8
Aris Bonnevoie	6	3	1	2	9	7	7
Spora	6	2	1	3	13	12	5
CS Petange	6	2	1	3	4	9	5
Union	6	0	4	2	3	5	4
Red Boys	6	2	0	4	13	16	4
FC Wiltz	6	1	2	3	8	14	4
Wormeldange	6	1	2	3	5	14	4
Swift Hesperange	6	1	1	4	7	17	3

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portadown	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
Crusaders	3	2	1	0	12	5	7
Glenavon	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
Linfield	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Glentoran	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
Distillery	3	2	0	1	6	5	6
Coleraine	3	1	2	0	8	4	5
Ards	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Ballymena	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
Omagh Town	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Cliftonville	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Bangor	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Carrick	3	0	1	2	5	10	1
Ballyclare	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Newry	3	0	0	3	2	11	0
Larne	3	0	0	3	1	10	0

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	7	4	1	2	10	4	13
Cork City	7	4	1	2	14	14	13
Shelbourne	7	3	3	1	11	8	12
Shamrock Rov	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Derry City	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
Athlone T	7	2	3	2	12	12	9
Cobh Ramblers	7	2	2	3	8	8	8
Dundalk	6	2	2	2	4	5	8
Galway U	7	2	2	3	8	15	8
St Pats A	7	1	4	2	5	6	7
Monaghan U	7	1	3	3	6	7	6
Sligo Rovers	7	1	2	4	5	8	5

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Gothenburg	16	11	3	2	36	15	36
Malmo	17	10	5	2	40	23	35
Oster	18	10	3	5	29	20	33
IFK Norrkoping	16	9	4	3	34	11	31
Orebro	16	9	4	3	36	20	31
AIK	17	8	5	4	29	23	29
Halmstad	18	8	3	7	33	33	27
Trelleborgs	17	5	7	5	18	22	22
Vastra Frolunda	17	5	3	9	19	20	18
Helsingborg	16	5	3	8	14	28	18
Degerfors	17	4	4	9	13	28	16
Hacken	17	2	6	9	19	34	12
Hammarby	18	2	4	12	16	23	10
Landskrona	18	2	4	12	14	40	10

WALES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Cardiff	4	3	1	0	11	3	10
Ton Pentre	4	3	1	0	13	6	10
Bangor	4	3	1	0	19	5	10
Flint	4	3	0	1	14	3	9
Porthmadog	4	3	0	1	11	5	9
Barry Town	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Connah's Quay	4	2	1	1	3	4	7
Holywell	4	1	3	0	8	7	6
Afan Lido	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Mold	4	2	0	2	7	9	6
Newtown	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Caersws	4	1	1	2	9	9	4
Conwy	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
Llanelli	4	1	1	2	1	6	4
Cwmbran Town	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Llansantfraid	4	1	0	3	3	8	3
Rhyl	4	0	1	3	3	6	1
Aberystwyth	4	0	1	3	4	9	1
Maesteg Park	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

ALBANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizani	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
SK Tirana	2	2	0	0	6	3	4
Teuta	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Tomori	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Apolonia	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Iliria	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Shqiponia	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Flamurtari	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Besa	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Beselidhja	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Laci	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Albpetrol	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Elbasani	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Vllaznia	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Shkumbini	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Dinamo	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

LATVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skonto Riga	15	14	1	0	41	4	29
RAF Jelgava	15	9	4	2	26	8	22
DAG Riga	15	8	5	2	24	8	21
Vairogs	15	7	4	4	21	21	18
Vidus	15	8	2	5	18	18	18
Olimpia	15	5	7	3	23	16	17
Pardaugava	15	4	6	5	15	16	14
Auseliks	15	4	4	7	18	19	12
Interskonto	15	2	6	7	10	20	10
Gemma Riga	15	3	2	10	10	31	8
Liepaja	15	2	3	10	11	28	7
Khimik	15	0	4	11	6	34	4

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Sofia	4	4	0	0	14	4	12
Lok. Sofia	4	4	0	0	8	3	12
Botev	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Slavia	4	2	1	1	9	6	7
Pirin	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Lok. Plovdiv	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
Lokomotiv GO	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
CSKA Sofia	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Montana	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Spartak	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Dubrudja	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Shumen	4	0	3	1	2	5	3
Neftokhimik	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
Etar	4	1	0	3	2	7	3
Leks	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
Beroe	4	0	1	3	5	10	1

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia Prague	9	7	1	1	19	6	22
Viktoria Zizkov	8	6	1	1	22	8	19
Boby Brno	9	5	3	1	15	10	18
Slovan Liberec	9	5	2	2	13	9	17
Sparta Prague	9	4	3	2	19	9	15
Ostrava	8	4	3	1	11	8	15
FC Union Cheb	9	4	3	2	8	8	15
Olomouc	9	3	3	3	8	8	12
FK Jablonec	9	3	2	4	13	11	11
Svarc Benesov	9	3	1	5	8	12	10
Viktoria Plzen	9	3	1	5	7	15	10
Svit Zlin	9	2	3	4	5	9	9
Ceske Budejovice	9	1	5	3	5	11	8
Bohemians	9	2	1	6	9	17	7
Petra Drnovice	9	1	1	7	8	19	4
Hradec Kralove	9	1	1	7	5	16	4

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest TE	8	8	0	0	33	8	24
Kispest Honved	8	5	2	1	15	7	17
Ferencvaros	8	5	1	2	20	13	16
Bekescsaba	8	4	3	1	16	12	15
BVSC Dreher	8	4	1	3	16	12	13
Csepel Kordax	8	4	1	3	7	4	13
FC ETO Gyor	8	3	2	3	9	7	11
Debrecen	8	3	2	3	10	14	11
Zalaegerszeg	8	3	2	3	10	16	11
Nagykanirsa	8	3	1	4	9	18	10
PMSC Fordan	8	2	3	3	7	12	9
Vac FC Samsung	8	2	2	4	9	13	8
Vasas Budapest	8	2	1	5	13	16	7
Sopron	8	1	2	5	13	21	5
FC Parmalat	7	0	3	4	9	15	3
FC Stadler	7	1	0	6	2	10	3

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKS Katowice	9	6	3	0	15	5	15
Gornik Zabrze	9	5	4	0	17	6	14
Legia Warsaw	9	5	2	2	17	8	12
Widzew Lodz	9	5	2	2	15	9	12
Lech Poznan	9	4	3	2	12	9	11
Olimpia Poznan	9	3	4	2	15	9	10
Stomil Olsztyn	9	3	4	2	16	13	10
Sokol Pniewy	9	3	4	2	11	9	10
Stal Stalowa	9	2	5	2	7	11	9
Petrochemia	9	2	4	3	11	12	8
Ruch Chorzow	9	1	6	2	6	7	8
LKS Lodz	9	2	4	3	10	13	8
Hutnik Krakow	9	3	1	5	9	10	7
Stal Mielec	9	3	1	5	12	14	7
Pogon Szczecin	9	2	3	4	7	10	7
Zaglebie Lubin	9	2	3	4	12	17	7
Rakow	9	1	2	6	10	22	4
Warta Poznan	9	0	3	6	4	23	3

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National	7	5	0	2	20	12	15
Rapid Bucharest	7	5	0	2	10	4	15
Steaua Bucharest	7	4	2	1	13	4	14
Gloria Bistrita	7	4	1	2	13	11	13
Arges Pitesti	7	4	1	2	13	12	13
Petrolul Ploiesti	7	4	0	3	14	10	12
Ceahlaul	7	3	2	2	11	10	11
Dinamo	7	3	1	3	17	15	10
Inter Sibiu	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Farul Constanta	7	3	1	3	10	13	10
Maramures BM	7	3	2	2	7	5	9
Electro. Craiova	7	3	0	4	9	12	9
Univ. Craiova	7	2	2	3	8	10	8
Univ. Cluj	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
FC Brasov	7	2	1	4	5	12	7
Otelul Galati	7	1	2	4	10	15	5
UT Arad	7	1	2	4	6	12	5
Sportul	7	1	2	4	3	8	5

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	26	18	7	1	64	17	43
Dynamo	26	12	11	3	47	28	35
Rotor Volgograd	26	9	14	3	31	18	32
Lok. Moscow	26	11	9	6	43	23	31
Tekstilshchik	26	12	5	9	29	27	29
KamAZ	26	11	7	8	35	28	29
Vladikavkaz	26	9	9	8	25	31	27
Zhemchuzhina	26	8	9	9	37	36	25
Lok. NN	26	8	8	10	26	29	24
Dyn. Gazovik	26	7	8	11	21	41	22
Uralmash	26	7	7	12	31	45	21
CSKA Moscow	26	6	9	11	23	28	21
Torpedo	26	5	11	10	23	33	21
Krylya	26	5	10	11	23	43	20
Lada Togliatti	26	5	9	12	20	36	19
Dyn. Stavropol	26	3	11	12	17	32	17

SLOVAKIA

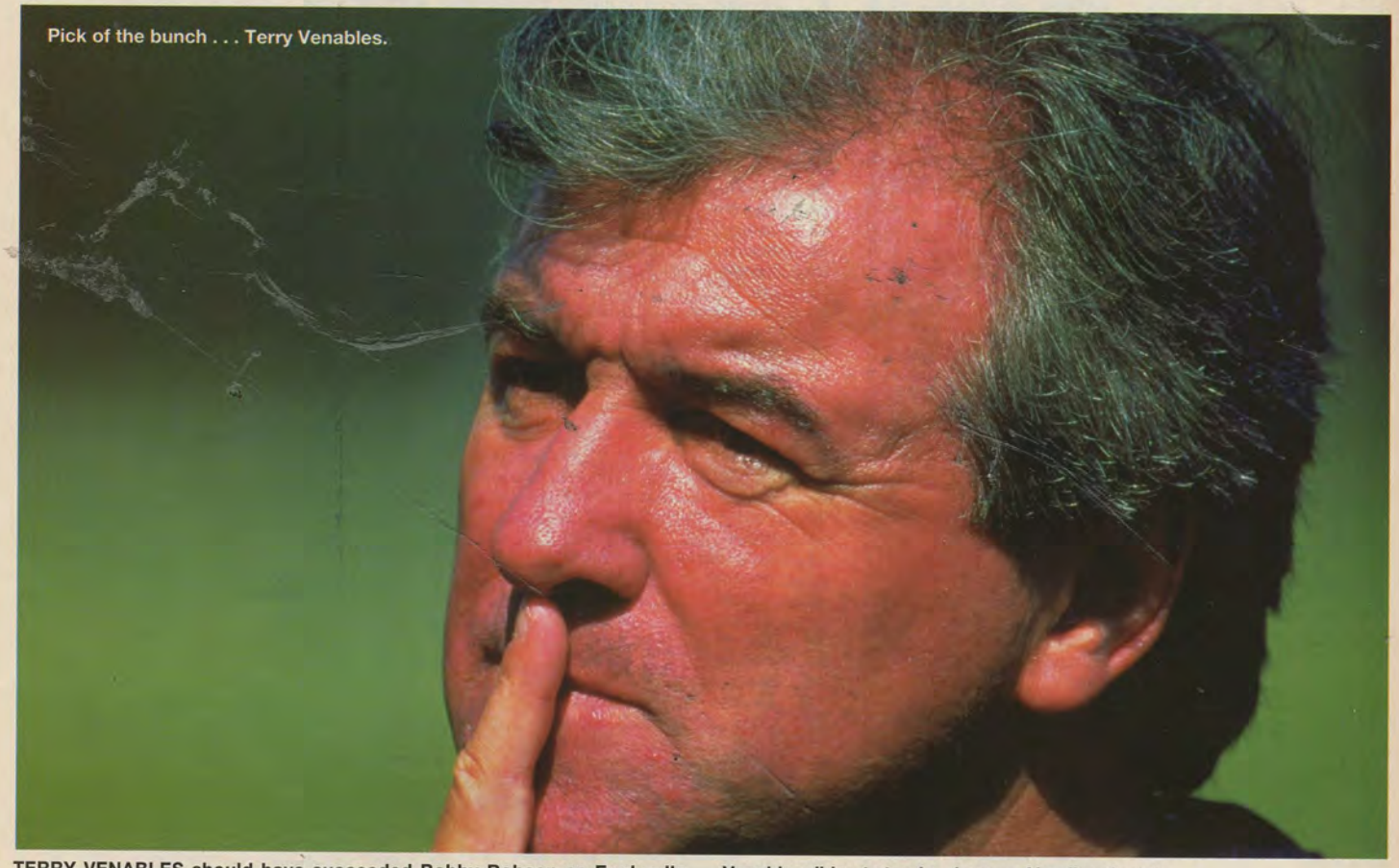
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	5	4	1	0	8	1	13
Banska Bystrita	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Bardejov	6	3	1	2	8	4	10
Lok. Kosice	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
FC Kosice	5	2	2	1	8	5	8
Dunajska Streda	6	2	1	3	5	6	7
Presov	6	2	1	3	9	11	7
Prievidza	6	2	1	3	4	10	7
Trnava	5	2	0	3	5	4	6
Inter	6	1	3	2	6	9	6
Humenne	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
SK Zilina	6	1	1	4	5	13	4

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paralimni	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Anorthosis	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Apoel	3	2

BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

HAS TERRY ARRIVED TOO LATE?



Pick of the bunch . . . Terry Venables.

TERRY VENABLES should have succeeded Bobby Robson as England's manager. Certainly in 1990. Perhaps even in 1986.

I remember, a good many years ago in Barcelona, telling him he hadn't a hope, simply because the old buffoons of the Senior FA International Committee were frightened of him. He seemed sadly resigned to that.

This was nothing to do with his alleged wheeling and dealing; considerations which, in any case, went out of the window when the remarkable Bert Millichip completely changed his mind overnight and waved Venables in at Lancaster Gate. It was just that Venners was ten times as bright, quick and competent as any of the asses empowered to pick the next England manager.

Paul Gascoigne apart, Le Tissier is quite the most gifted and creative English footballer of his generation.

Heaven help us, they inexcusably and inexplicably went for Graham Taylor. Then, when he proved utterly inadequate, they had not the nous or the guts to get rid of him while there was still some chance of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup.

When Venables was ultimately and surprisingly chosen, it was at a time when this was the last thing you would have expected. He was locked in bitter conflict with Alan Sugar. Still is, and no doubt will be for a long, long time to come. Fearsome public accusations had been made, if not sustained, about his business practices.

By the old FA criteria, which stipulated that an England manager should be like Caesar's wife (although they did not do much looking into Bobby Robson's, shall we say, romantic record), Venables did not stand a chance of landing the job.

Yet in he went. A choice to which I had no objection on moral grounds, but still feel might well have been made too late.

So far, Venables has been a belt and braces manager, at a time when there has not been the slightest need for caution. And his excessive caution is best, or worst, summed up by the case of Matthew Le Tissier *(pictured bottom left, in one of his rare appearances for England, against Norway in May of this year)*.

Paul Gascoigne apart, Le Tissier is quite the most gifted and creative English footballer of his generation.

This, as we know, has been more of a curse than a blessing. From Charlie Buchan, through Len Shackleton, Stanley Matthews, Gascoigne under two previous regimes, and Glenn Hoddle, brilliance has been mistrusted.

Venables certainly has a soft spot for Gazza, whom he took to Spurs, and whom he has picked for England, even when palpably not fully fit, but not Le Tissier, for all his undoubted flair, his superlative technique, his ability to conjure something out of nothing, either with an inspired pass or an amazing piece of jugglery.

Venables is a most intelligent man, a shrewd psychologist, and he must know perfectly well what this kind of treatment can do to a player. Not least one as sensitive, however relaxed, as Le Tissier.

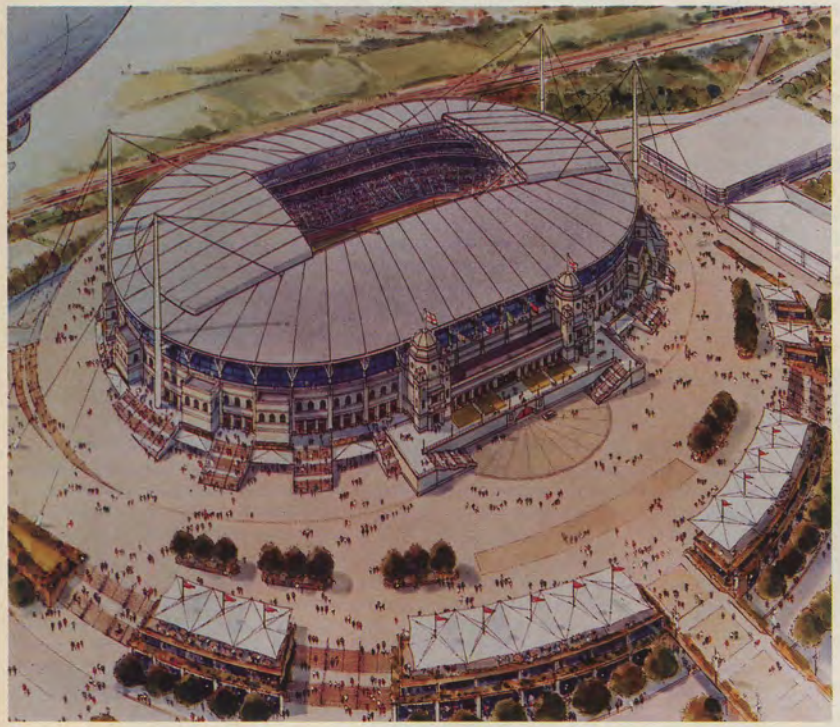
Clearly he has been sent the message: I don't want you. You are not for me.

Was he afraid that Le Tissier, if played against the United States, would have enraptured Wembley with a virtuoso performance that set the crowd such as it was, alight?

Of course, Le Tissier might have done nothing of consequence. You never know with a player like him, any more than you ever know whether any player will make the long step up from club to international soccer. Too many have fallen between the two, over the years.

But even if Le Tissier had been tried and had failed, at least we would have the satisfaction of knowing he was not made for the international game.

A NEW MIRAGE OF WEMBLEY



THE IDEA that Wembley might at last be turned into a decent soccer stadium is perhaps a little too good to be true.

But at least the bid by a consortium brings us the mirage of a Wembley worthy of staging big football matches.

The present stadium, as I've had occasion to remark before, is a pitiful compromise between the old and the notionally new. When the Taylor Report was implemented, Wembley's response was an ersatz one. Put seats on the terraces, and let the punters make the best of it. Which was a poor one indeed.

The consortium have ambitious plans, to gut the obsolescent old stadium and bring it back to 100,000 capacity, with a retractable roof.

Ah, that retractable roof! I remember asking that sonorous old bully, Sir Bracewell Smith, when head of Wembley and chairman of Arsenal some 30 years ago. "Come on, boy, come on! You want to ask about the roof!" Didn't happen.

Sir Brian Wolfson, current Wembley chairman, would not discuss it. Jarvis Astaire, his colleague, poured cold water on the idea. From a financial-economic point of view, I'm not qualified to dispute with him. But I fell out of love with Wolfson and his plans many years before Wembley got into their present, appalling mess, £140million in debt.

Writing then, for the *Sunday Times*, I published a list of bitter complaints about facilities at the stadium.

Back came a letter signed by a Wembley minion "refuting" — his grasp of the English language was imperfect — the points I made.

I faxed back an immediate answer, confirming them, with chapter and verse. Only to find, to my horror, a week or two later, the self-same letter, quite unaltered, appearing in the correspondence columns. Signed by Brian Wolfson.

TOO LATE, MR CLARKE

FASCINATING, if belated and irrelevant, to see Kenneth Clarke damning the Taylor Report and the Thatcherite implementation, leading to the demise of standing accommodation.

Graham Kelly of the FA was quick to dispute these views. Stadia, he felt, had been improved and made safer, all over the country.

There is much truth in this, but still I believe Chancellor Clarke had a fair point. Seating certainly does not guarantee an absence of violence.

Look at the number of times seats have been broken up and hurled as weapons! They also mean that peaceful non-combatants may find it very hard to get out of he way when violence erupts, and police may take longer to get to the trouble spot.

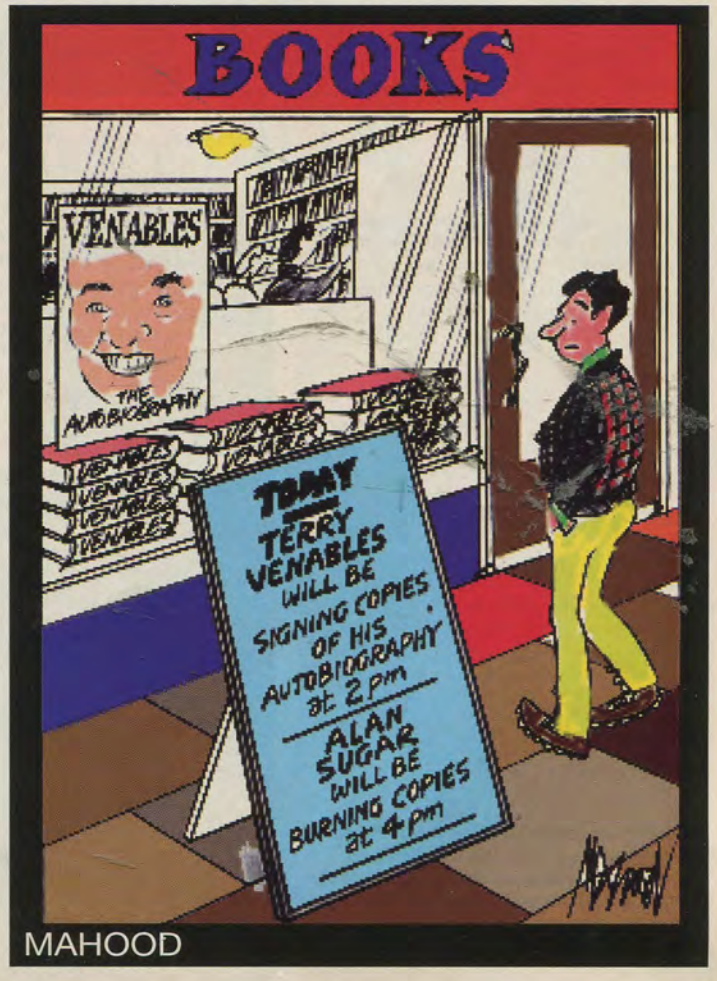
What worries me above all about all-seating, however, is the danger of pricing out the true fan, the young working-class male who, whatever his propensity to violence over the past couple of decades, remains the lifeblood of the professional game.

I don't want to see soccer turned into a kind of castrated bourgeois affair; as indeed it seemed to be at times during the World Cup in those American stadiums, several of which, as our leading journalist expert Simon Inglis has pointed out, were quite unsafe by English standards.

Football's authorities rushed like Gadarene swine to accept the Taylor Report (which even he has been rumoured to have post-natal doubts about) because it kicked into touch La Thatcher's insane scheme for identity cards.

So the lesser evil was embraced, and will be with us for ever. A pity Clarke did not have more to say about it at the time, though.

Ah, well. A career is a career, especially in politics.



MAHOOD

A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

NANTES

Name: Stade de la Beaujoire
Capacity: 52,000 (still counting . . . see right)
Opened: May 8 1984 for the European Championships.

● Destined to be a World Cup venue in 1998, the Beaujoire combines French curvaciousness — particularly its undulating roof — with subtle green colouring and an exposed structure. The ends are drafty, owing to their backless roofs, and being right on the outskirts of town, bordered by huge parking lots, the place can feel soulless at times (the architect also worked on the Parc des Princes, which explains a lot). Maybe a few full-houses and a bit of sun in 1998 will persuade me that that it's better than Nantes' eccentric old stadium, which still teeters on the banks of the Loire back in the centre of town. About those seats. Nantes have adopted a bizzarre plan whereby seats are installed on the former terraced ends for season ticket holders only! That means yellow plastic dotted about, with bare concrete left in between for everyone else to sit on. There should be 40,000 seats in place in time for the 1998 World Cup. In the meantime, take a cushion.
World Soccer rating: 8 (out of 10)

NAPOLI

Name: Stadio San Paolo
Capacity: 85,012 all-seated
Opened: December 6 1959, Napoli v Juventus (this is Napoli's third stadium since 1929)
Location: In the densely populated Fuorigrotta district, three kms west of the centre, a five minute walk from the Campi Flegrei metro station.

● It cost £60million to refurbish San Paolo for Italia '90, and possibly the same in legal fees when the inevitable fraud investigations followed its completion. Once a classic southern European two-tiered concrete bowl, the stadium is now topped by a somewhat brutal steel framed canopy, which has never quite looked finished. The original architect wanted to create a light and open structure, maintaining the link between spectators and the surrounding city and hills. His son, who oversaw the World Cup works, has thankfully maintained that transparency, but with its new red seats and industrial ring of steel, a bit of the magic (along with Maradona) seems to have departed.
World Soccer rating: 8 (out of 10)

NIGERIA

● They may be Super Eagles on the pitch, but when it comes to hosting an international tournament as important as next March's World Youth Championships, Nigeria may have already been superceded by the time you read this. After several FIFA warnings about crowd safety over the past decade (especially after five fans died in overcrowding in 1989), Nigeria's main stadia are still reported to be in a state of neglect. Yet in a less volatile political and economic environment the government-owned Surulere Stadium, Lagos, could easily be upgraded. Holding 45,000 officially (but 60,000 when it opened in 1972 with a friendly v Mali), it was built by a German company for the 1973 All Africa Games and looks every inch the standard German concrete bowl around a track. But as Joao Havelange was quoted as saying World Soccer recently, "Passion is one thing, organisation is another."

NOU CAMP

Capacity: 105,000 (80,000 seats)
Opened: September 24 1957, extended for the 1982 World Cup
Location: Four kms north-west of Las Ramblas and a 10-minute ramble from Les Corts metro station

● Many small towns would happily settle for FC Barcelona's 16,000 capacity reserve-team stadium, its 6,000 seater indoor sports arena, 2,000 seat ice-arena, outdoor training complex, museum and 18th Century farmhouse-cum-hostel. All lie in the shadow of the Catalan castle — the mighty Nou Camp. Dusty and often chaotic on the outside, once in your seat (or any seat or aisle step you can find), the sweeping blue and red interior swallows you up in its enormity and all (well, most) preceding hassles are forgiven. This year the gradual move towards all-seater status (to comply with UEFA's 1998 deadline) has seen reduced terracing and executive boxes installed at the cost, surprise surprise, of less wealthy socios. Even so, with its quadric plan (that is, slightly curved sides around a rectangle — perfect for football) and three steeply rising tiers, Nou Camp is still like an American superbowl overrun by crazies. Not for those of a meek disposition, or madrilenos.
World Soccer rating: 9 (out of 10)

● ***Miffed members of the Toon Army please note – WORLD SOCCER has not forgotten Newcastle. The superbly revamped St James' Park will be included in a special feature next year on venues for Euro '96.***

NEXT MONTH

EXCLUSIVE:
Carlos Alberto, Dunga and the hotel key which unlocked the World Cup for Brazil

ALSO NEXT MONTH

Club spotlight on South American Champions **Velez Sarsfield** - and their bid for the World Club Cup

Last tango in Ipswich . . .
Paz and Taricco settle in Suffolk

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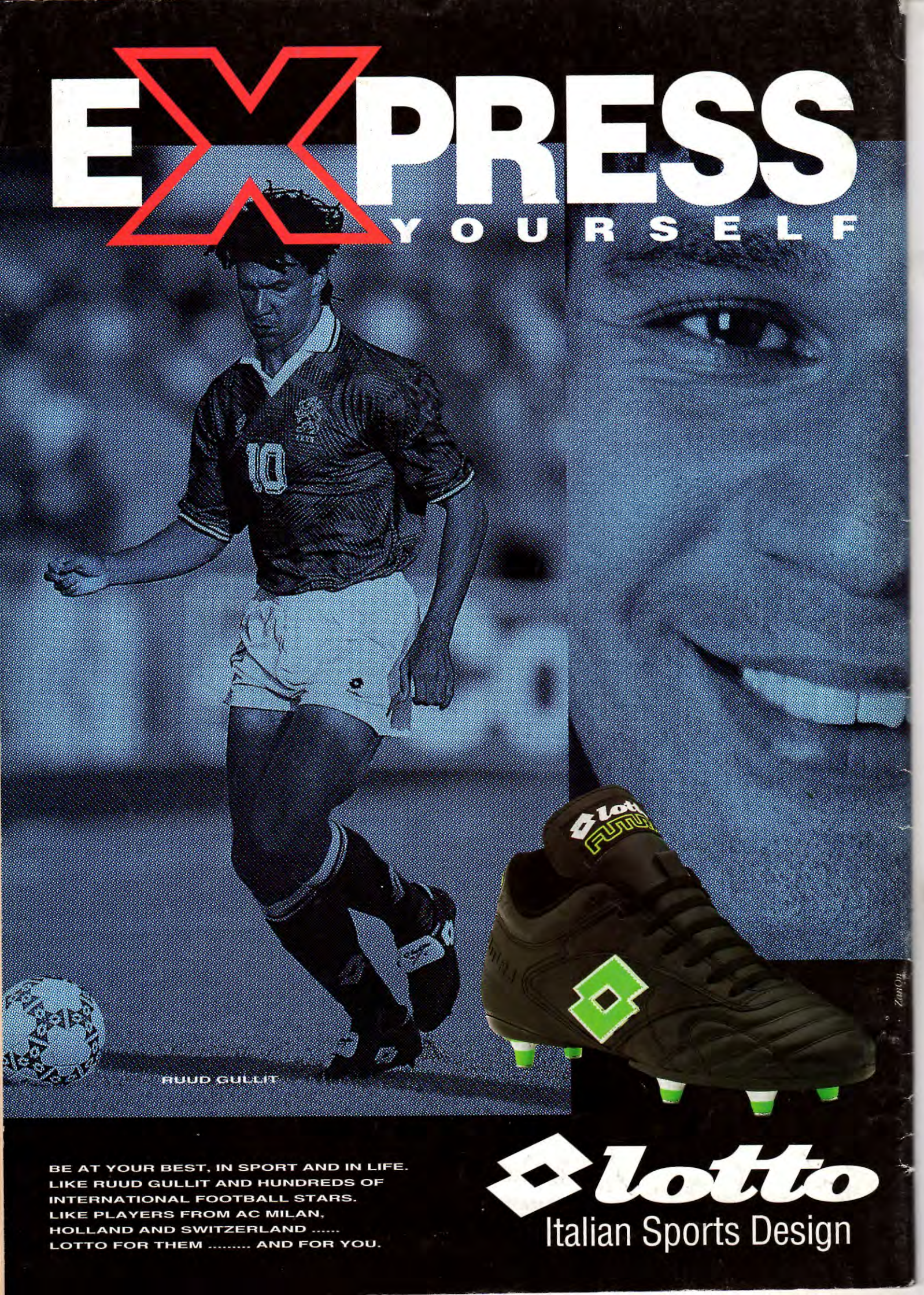
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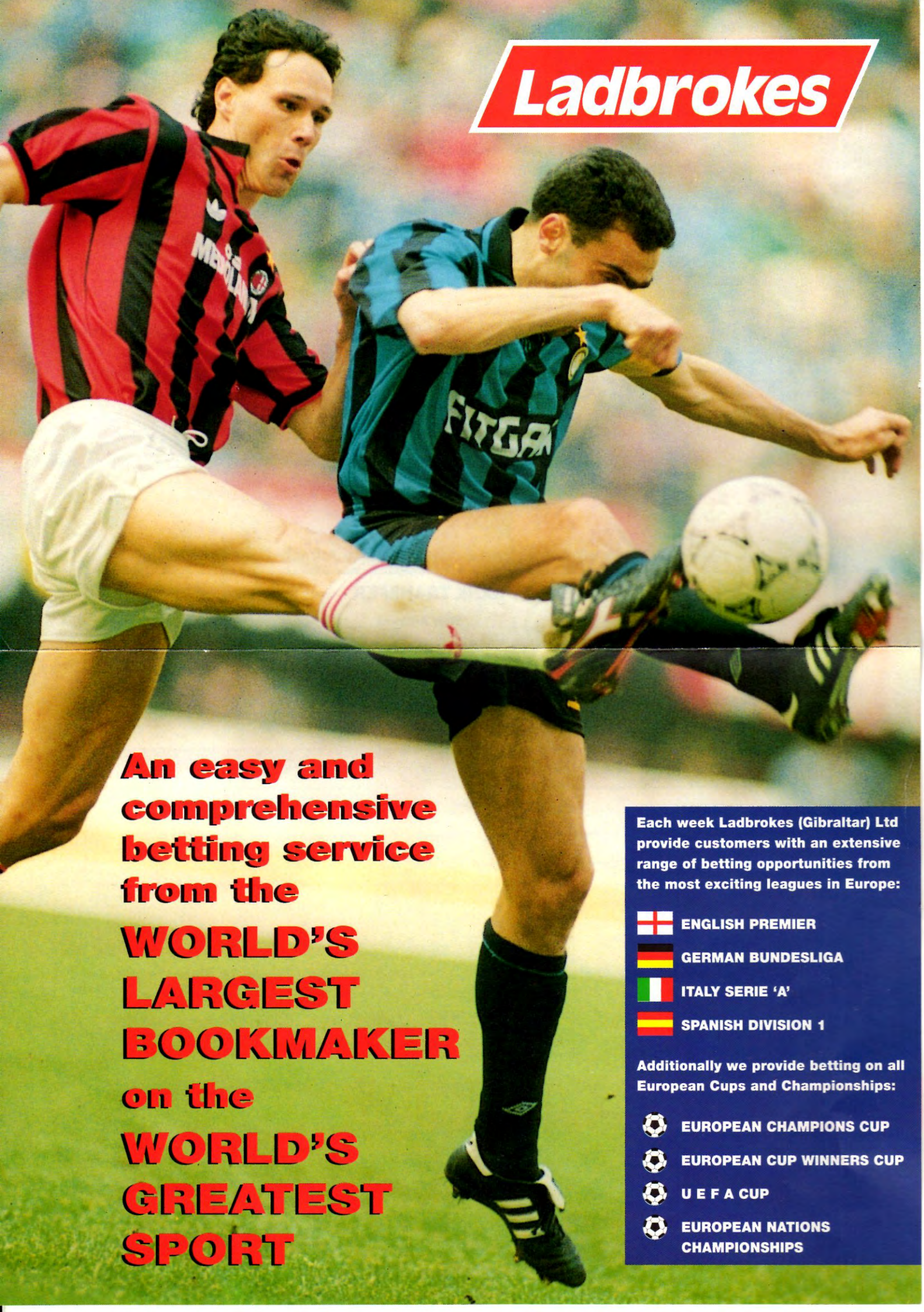
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